THE TABLOID

Bridget Jones: in praise of older women



THE TABLOID Fashion dos, don'ts and not-on-your-lifes



COMMENT The real challenge for Blair

ANDREW MARR, PAGE 19



Prison made to change 1,000 locks

A private prison has been forced to change all its 1,000 locks after the Prison Service invoked special powers to take charge of curity at the jail.

In a somb that will have infuriated Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, senior staff at Blakenhurst prison, near Worcester, refused to change the locks despite reports that prisoners had optained a set of keys.

For the first time, the prison tion Services, the private compowers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and Al Papps, the Prison Ser-vice's director of operations for prisons in the north ordered that the locks be replaced at an

estimated cost of over £200,000. George Howarth, Labour's prisons spokesman, said he was appalled that the money had been paid by the taxpayer and not by United Kingdom Deten-

He said: This episode shows that private prisons are prepared to compromise security for the sake of profits and the prison service is making the public pick up the bill." The commercial cost of the re-fit would have almost wiped out the company's profits. UKDS dedared a profit of £380,000 last year.

The company will have also been anxious to avoid the

The locks at the £40m showpiece jail have already been replaced several times. On one embarrassing occasion in 1993 the then governor, David Brooke, was photographed in the local news-

paper unlocking a cell for visitors.

Blown-up pictures of his hand were later circulated by immates in the jail so that key copies could be made. Locks had to be re-fitted at an estimated cost of £85,000. Seven months later, another 130 new locks had to be in-

stolen by inmates. The incident led to criticism of the jail by Judge Stephen Tumim, then chief in-spector of prisons. This time UKDS was not prepared to pay out after an internal investigation failed to find evidence that any

keys had been stolen or copied. An inquiry was launched last week after an anonymous tip-off, placed in a prison suggestion box, indicated that prisoners had obtained a replica key. Soon after-

claimed that her son was being bullied by prisoners who be-lieved he had a set of jail keys and wanted him to hand them over. Mr Papps told Blakenhurst bosses that there had been a "key com-

promise" and locks would have to be replaced. UKDS disagreed. After the invocation of special powers, teams of locksmiths, employed in the works offices of neighbouring jails, were drafted in to fit the new locks.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: 'It is outrageous that the taxpayer has been forced to bale UKDS out. It was their security compro-mise and they should pay for it.

UKDS said: 'A decision was taken to re-lock the prison on the basis of intelligence received that the security of the prison may have been compromised." A spokesman said the company was not paying for the work.



Is this the woman who will rule Blair's new model Labour Party?

Political Correspondent

Labour is preparing to break with tradition by appointing a woman as its chief official for the first time in its 100-

Margaret McDonagh, at present general election campaign co-ordinator, is being widely tipped to take over from Tom Sawyer as the next general secre-

tary of the party.
Strong rumours among Labour ranks suggest that Mr Sawyer could be rewarded for his work in modernising the party and in planning the general elec-tion campaign with a seat in the House of Lords. If he does go, Ms McDonagh is believed to be foremost among those

favoured for the succession. A former London organiser for the party now in her late thirties, she is seen as tough, ambitious and fiercely wellorganised. She has impressed senior figures with her work on the campaign, Labour's target seats. Ms McDonforms, and the party leadership is looking for capable, hard-working particularly in co-ordinating work in Labour in the key seat of Mitcham and Mordem, where the former Conservative minister Angela Rumbold had a

1,700-vote majority at the last election. The post of general secretary is an elected one and Mr Sawyer, a former

ty's national executive from a shortlist of four. Ms McDonagh might be favoured by many members of the committee, though, as the appointment of a woman would be felt to send a positive, modernising message to members.

positive about the suggestion, though a few hinted that they found her efficiency a little frightening. "She's very capable, she's quite steely and she runs

a very tight ship," said one. Ms McDonagh, a Tony Blair loyalist. was recently drafted in to help deliver a "charm school" to party candidates, coaching them through election tactics and making sure that they were well aware of the campaign message. She was also reported to be the author of a blunt internal report which warned that Labour was vulnerable on the econo-

my and immigration. Labour may need to create a large number of new life peerages in order to push through its constitutional reas full-time jobs rather than as straight-

forward honours. Ms McDonagh could not be con-Blair's peers, page 3 Margaret McDonagh : Poised to become Labour's first female general secretary tacted for comment last night.

Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday

slapped down a Tory backbench

MP in the Commons and gave

a clear signal that he will not al-

low the Conservatives to play the race card in the general election.

Mr Major refused to con-demn Labour for promising to

abolish the primary purpose rule in the immigration laws, as

reported in Monday in The

. The rule requires immigrants

to prove that a marriage was not

for the primary purpose of gaining a right to live in the UK.

It is attacked in an official

guide to Tory candidates for the

forthcoming election campaign.

onto the offensive when

Nicholas Budgen, the Tory MP

But Mr Major refused to go



QUICKLY

Bad parenting

The most extreme cases of bac parenting would be criminalised under the latest initiative against youth crime from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

New mini launched The successor to the worldfamous Mini was launched at the Geneva Motor Show

Intensive rationing Intensive care beds for children should be concentrated in a few large regional centres, rather than being dotted around district general hospitals, accord-

ing to an expert advisory Albania at bay

In Albania, where rusty tanks rumble down the rutted country tracks that pass for major roads on a mission to break up anti-government roadblocks and intimidate Kalashnikov-toting rebels into giving up their weapons, ordinary citizens have no choice but to sit at home, knock back alternate cups of coffee and brandy and wait for the

THE BROADSHEET

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However, it dismayed other rightwing Tory MPs. The Prime Minister is trying to distance himfor Wolverhampton South West, self from it. He doesn't want to urged him to condemn Labour upset the immigrant communicraziness to pass. Page 12 urged him to condemn Labour upset the himigant to the general for threatening to liberalise the ty in the run-up to the general

Budgen said had helped to re-

duce racial tension in Britain.

improvement."

Labour leader

immigration controls which Mr ing in putting Nick Budgen down and then Blair gave him a patronising pat on the back,"

Major slaps down any Tory

There were cries of "you're said one of Mr Budgen's friends. desperate" by Labour back-bench MPs, and shouts of The Conservative Party campaign guide to be used by Tory candidates, warns in a chapter "racist" at Mr Budgen's ques-tion. But Mr Major replied: "In the last 18 years, we have seen on race relations that Labour's plan to abolish the primary the most extraordinary changes purpose rule and grant immiand improvements in race regration rights to extended famlations in this country. That is ilies "would undoubtedly lead immensely important. I certo increased immigration and tainly am not going to lend my fresh abuse of the system." voice or my policy to anything that would change that Mr Major's refusal to use that

formula suggests that the Prime Minister, who was brought up Tony Blair took the unusual in Brixton, personally wants to avoid race becoming an election step of praise Mr Major for his reply. "I think he deserves credissue, although it was proposed it for that answer," said the by a former Tory Central Office

A senior Tory source said: "The Prime Minister comes from a multi-cultural background. He believes in firm but fair immigration rules.

attempt to play race card reducing them, as Labour propose, would endanger good race relations.

Both Labour and the Tories have been energetic in recent months in seeking the support of the ethnic communities in Britain, particularly the Asian vote, which could prove decisive in marginal seats in the Midlands. An Asian lobby group, the

Confederation of Indian Organisations, is preparing to target ethnic voters in Britain with pamphlets carrying the Tory response to Labour's proposals for liberalising the immigration rules. It will be used in eight marginal seats where the swing of a few hundred votes could oust Tory MPs.

While Mr Major was reluctant to go onto the attack on immigration, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, in response to the Independent report, issued his own condemnation of Labour's a girl.

He said scrapping the 1996 Asylum Act would cost the taxpayer an extra £200 million a year in extra benefits. Labour's policy to drop the requirement on employers to make checks on illegal immigration would be "a charter for the sweat shop and it would threaten the jobs and living standards of British citi-

A Tory rightwinger was under attack from both sides last night after describing the Prime Minister as "vindictive and unforgiving" and the Heritage Secretary as "dead from the

David Evans, the MP for Welwyn and Hatfield, also referred in an interview to the "three bastard children" of his Labour opponent at the general election and talked of "some black bastard" who had raped

Grobbelaar jury fails to agree verdict

The four defendants in the football-rigging case face a likely re-trial after a jury at Winchester Crown Court yesterday failed to agree a verdict after a

34-day trial.
Judge Mr Justice Tuckey discharged the nine men and three women jury after nearly 11 hours of deliberation and when it became clear they were unable to reach a verdict.

None of the three footballers - the ex-Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Wimbledon striker John Fashanu or Hans Segers, the former Wimbledon player -commented as they left the court room. The fourth defendant, the Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim. said: "I have always maintained my innocence and I will continue to

The prosecution counsel David Calvert Smith said would be seeking a re-trial, and a decision - with advice from the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell - is likely within a few days. Players representatives said they were concerned about the increased strain put on the footballers and

The four men denied charges that they had corruptly conspired to give or receive money to try to influence the outcome of football matches. They were said to have been helping to throw games so that an Indonesian betting syndicate could clean up on bets on Pre-

mier League matches. Grobbelaar, 39, denied a separate charge of accepting £2,000 from his former business partner and friend Christopher Vincent as an inducement to influence a game.

Yesterday afternoon the judge told the jury that he would accept a majority verdict – a verdict on which at least 10 of them were agreed. But just before 4pm he jury passed a note to the judge saying they could not agree.

The judge asked if there was any reasonable chance they could reach a majority verdict. The jury foreman replied: "We believe so, my lord."

Later, David Hewitt, Grobbelaar's solicitor, said: "Bruce is extremely disappointed that after nearly two-and-a-half years this matter has not been put to rest." All four men were given bail. The FA and Fifa both declined to comment.

Background, page 3

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Family doctors are being asked to predict whether patients would be likely to commit suicide if their sickness benefit were stopped. A new form, issued by the Department of Social Security's Benefits Agency, asks GPs to say whether there would be a substantial risk to the mental or physical health of their patient if they were found fit for work and benefit were terminated. "For example, risk of suicide or threat of harm to others", the form says.

The British Medical Association is advising GPs not to fill in that section of the form, since it requires them to give an opinion, rather than provide information. Dr Peter Holden, deputy chairman of the association's private practice and professional fees' committee, said: "Doctors are obliged to give sickness certificates, but these are statements of fact, not prognostication. GPs should not speculate, prognosticate or give an opinion."

Woman commuter stabbed on train

A man was being questioned by police at Guidford police station yesterday after a woman was attacked and stabbed on a train. The 27-year-old woman had been travelling alone on the Waterloo to Guildford train when she was attacked by a man who stabbed her in the head. The attack was believed to have happened late on Monday evening as the train approached Clandon Station in Surrey. A Surrey police spokesman said she was taken to Royal Surrey County Hospital and then transferred to the National

Security firm to recruit car thief

Hospital in London."

A leading vehicle security firm is trying to recruit a car thief to provide it with expert knowledge on how to stop car crime.

Toad Innovations has placed advertisements in newspapers across the country offering work to a "top-line former criminal" with a CV which includes at least one relevant conviction. But the company says the successful applicant must be back on the "straight and narrow". It is seeking advice on its security devices, including an electronic tracking system for stolen vehicles.

Hague and his fiancée step out



William Hague and his fiancée, Ffion Jenkins made their first public appearance yesterday following of their

engagement. Mr Hague, who occupies the safe seat of Richmond. Yorkshire, with a majority of 23,504,

marked his political card as a 16-year-old with an impassioned speech at the 1977 party conference. Since taking over the Welsh Office in July 1995 his fortunes have prospered to the point where some regard him as a future leader of the Conservative Party.

Leading article, page 17

Nurses suspended over abuse

Three nurses have been suspended and a nursing assistant has been sacked from two NHS care homes after claims they abused mentally handicapped patients, it emerged yesterday. Another two senior nurse managers have also been suspended while an inquiry is carried out into the allegations, which centre around Farn Villa and Langdon Villa homes in Durham.

The nurses were suspended after it was claimed that eight elderly female patients at Langdon Villa were locked in lavatories eriods. Disciplinary hearings w 10 days. The nursing assistant was sacked from Farn Villa in January after he allegedly cold bathed a patient.

Youngsters seize Lego flotsam

Youngsters are flocking to beaches in Cornwall where thousands of items of Lego bricks are being washed up. The bricks were on board a ship taking two container-loads of Lego from the toy giant's headquarters in Denmark to America. The ship was damaged in heavy storms in the Channel last month during which boxes of the colourful toy bricks were thrown overboard.

Peugeot workers balloted on strike

Workers at Peugeot are expected to vote for industrial action today in a dispute over pay and conditions. The 3,000 employees at the French firm's Coventry factory have been balloted on a strike and other forms of industrial action. The Transport and General Workers Union said the company wanted to change working hours to bring in longer shifts, earlier starts and later finishing times. Union officials say they are confident of a decisive vote for action when the ballot result is announced.

Teachers of five-year-olds

Seven per cent of the sample of bad teachers reported in yesterday's paper taught five-year-olds. The analysis did not show that seven per cent of five-year-olds' teachers are poor. The figure for nine-year-olds is 25 per cent of the sample.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Climber sets out to conquer the Himalayan death zone

mountaineer who has already conquered Ever-est and K2 plans to climb into the "death zone" six more times this year to achieve a world record. Alan Hinkes, 42, has so far climbed eight of the 14 mountains over 8,000 metres, the altitude known as "the death zone" because the body burns energy faster than it can acquire it from the air.

He wants to climb the remaining six peaks by the end of October. If successful he will be the first person to have reached six "premier league" summits in

"Some may see me as an eccentric madman but I just want to climb mountains," he said yesterday. "I know it's going to be tough, but after preparing for this challenge for 10 years, I'm physically and mentally ready for it. "At every stage i'll remember my old maxim that suc-

cess is returning and the summit is only a bonus. No mountain is worth a life."

His first target will be Lhotse in Nepai, at 8.501m the fourth highest mountain in the world, and in June he will set off for Makalu, 8,475m, the summit of which he has twice before failed to reach. His first attempt

Four-legged

ambassador falls

victim to poisoner

Quick thinking by the wife of the

Governor of Hong Kong saved the life of one of Britain's four-legged

amassadors to the colony when it

became the latest victim of a serial

While Lavender Patten (right)

walked her dogs, Whisky and Soda, near the Governor's Resi-

dence, Whisky could not resist a

piece of chicken left lying on the

pavement. But the dog had failed

to sniff out the truth - it had been

covered in insecticide-type poison.

er began to behave strangely, and

Mrs Patten, remembering that oth-

er Hong Kong pets had been vic-tims of the so-called "Bowen Road

Poisoner", rushed the tiny dog to

In a letter published in yester-

day's South China Morning Post,

Whisky's small body tried to resist

the effects of the poison, we were

lucky. Thankfully Whisky survived

Mrs Patten added:"I am writing

other people not to take their dogs

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to these particular areas of Hong

now because I feel I must warn

Mrs Paten says it was thanks to

the care of the vets that "when

the ordeal."

Moments later, the Norfolk terri-

in 1988 ended near the summit, when he was forced to turn back to help a companion, who survived a 400m fall in an avalanche. He was ready for a second attempt two years ago but he never even made it to base

camp after his leg was injured in a tall. However, later that year Mr Hinkes was sufficently recovered to climb K2, at 8,650m, the world's second highest - and most dangerous - mountain, in Pakistan. On his way down K2 in July 1995 he crossed paths with Alison Hargreaves, who was on her way up the mountain which would cost her life.

After Makatu, Mr Hinkes will try to reach the start mit of Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest peak at 8,586m, Nanga Parbat, the ninth at 8,128m, Dh giri, the sixth at 8,172m and finally Annapointa, the tenth highest at 8,078m in October.

Chris Bonington, non-executive director of Berghaus, which is sponsoring the £70,000 challenge, said The odds, especially the weather, are against him but that will make his success all the greater. He said

The first person to climb all 14 peaks was the Austrian Reinhold Messner in 1986. Kate Watson-Smyth

Head to head for Heathcliffe Two of Britain's screen heart-

throbs are vying to play one of English literature leading romantic roles in a new costume drama. Ewan McGregor, who played

the heroin-shooting anti-hero in Trainspotting, and Colin Firth, who as Mr Darcy wooed viewers' hearts in the BBC's recent adaptation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, are both shortlisted to play Heathcliff in a new produc-

tion of Wuthering Heights. London Weekend Television plans to screen the classic 19thcentury novel as a two-hour special

Kong island unless they are muz-The tale of obsessive love was Emily Bronte's only novel. The leave a mess behind to give peoidea of such a shocking story of ple an excuse for taking such crupassion being written by a woman caused such a stir when it was published in 1847 that she had to give herself the sexless nom de been fervent campaigners for the

plume of Ellis Bell. Wuthering Heights is the latest classic novel to receive TV costume drama treatment. Persuasion, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Emma, Moll Flanders and Middlemarch have all been screened recently.

LWT is also showing an adaptation of Jane Eyre this Sunday. Matthew Brace

Quantity of forged cash is shrinking, police say

The amount of forged money being produced in Britain has dropped by two-thirds in the last year, it emerged yesterday. Just over £10m in counterfeit sterling was seized in 1996, compared to 29m in 1995. A third of that was detected before it was used by criminals, according to the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

Many of the people responsible for producing large amounts of forged cash in the past are now in jail, claim the police. Unlike

drugs, the amount of forged money being produced can be gauged by police seizures because all counterfeits are eventually detected. "There is no question of counterfeit notes remaining in circulation for long as inevitably they gravitate to the retail trade," said.

Detective Inspector Wayne Smith, head of specialist crimes at the

Forgeries are not improving dramatically with new technology; as had been feared, he said. "Our experience shows that despite colour photocopiers becoming more widely available, colour copies represent 5 per cent of the counterfeit problem. Most "professional" counterfeiters continue to use traditional offset litho printing machines.

DRUGS

Ecstasy use a global problem

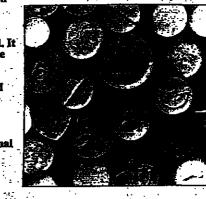
Abuse of synthetic drags such as Ecstasy and miracle diet pills is on the rise worldwide, and countries are falling to target those responsible, a UN-funded drugs body said yesterday. The Viennabased International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) said in its annual report that drug production, trafficking and abuse had spread to previously unaffected areas, aided by the opening up of

global borders.

While drug law enforcement had improved in some countries, with a significant rise in seizures, countries needed to focus their

efforts internationally on catching big-time traffickers, rather than small-time users and pushers, the report said. It highlighted the immense economic power of transnational crime syndicates, which it said posed a major threat to police, judiciary and oliticians. The INCB is the

guarantor of internati irug control treaties which outlaw narcotics such as cocaine, heroit and synthetic or 'designer" drugs.



INDUSTRY

Stress mounts in workplace

Workplace stress has caused a 90 per cent increase in insurance claims for mental and psychological illness over the last five years, with the medical profession and teachers hardest hit, according to

with the medical profession and teachers hardest int, according a report published yesterday.

UNUM, one of the biggest insurers providing protection for employees against loss of income, found that one in five of its claimants had been off work for at least six months because of severe anxiety and depression. The company said that employers were becoming more demanding as working methods changed and staff numbers were cut back.

Another study found that British employees were reporting higher stress levels than colleagues in Continential countries. The poll of 5,000 workers by the Harris Research Centre, said that a half of British respondents reported increasing stress levels, compared with 41 per cent in France, 38 per cen in Germnay, 33 per cent in Italy and 22 per cent in Spain. Barrie Clement

EDUCATION

Good prospects for new graduates

This year's crop of university graduates have better prospects of landing a job than those in any year since 1990, according to an annual report by Income Data Services. It forecasts that the demand for graduates will continue to increase at a rate not seen for a decade and that median salaries for graduate recruits will rise from £15,000 to £15,442.

However, it cautions: "A return to 1980s levels of demand is not all good news, as the survey also registered the first signs of a return to the types of labour market shortages that characterised the previous decade." Research File 41, £30, IDS, 193 St John St, London EC1 4LS. Tel:

0171 250 3434.

SOCIETY

Church to address poverty

Senior officials of the Church of England yesterday accused politicians of all parties of divisive policies designed to appeal to the middle classes at the expense of those on the fringes of society, and pledged to put forward their own programme for dealing with

Douglas Bartles-Smith, Archdeacon of Southwark, said MPs must make clear how they planned to improve the lives of the "forgotten 30 per cent" – those people who were unemployed or economically mactive. "All the politicians talk about being tough on crime but they forget about that 30 per cent of people which is why there is crime in the first place," he said.

The leaders of all three parties have recently said they are Christian and as Christians we are challenging to put that faith into



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"Be considerate - and do not

Chris Patten and his wife have

pressure group Passports for Pets,

When they leave Hong Kong in June, they are said to be consider-

ing living in the south of France for

six months in the hope that the

British laws will be relaxed, but

aim to eventually bring the dogs

which aims to overtum Britain's

el and indiscriminate action

against our pets."

strict quarantine laws.

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Grobbelaar ti

30 PM

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Grobbelaar trial: Crown's allegation of international match-fixing conspiracy fails to convince jurors after 34-day hearing

Rootball fixing claims which divided jury

Allegations of a corrupt conspiracy involving three profes sional footballers to fix Premier League football matches to help a Far Eastern betting syn-baller had "thrown" football dicate earn millions of pounds held centre stage at the Winchester Crown Court trial which ended in a hung jury yesterday.

The question for the jury hinged on whether they believed the three professional footballers - Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers, phus Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim had been involved in such a conspiracy, or merely predicting results.

It was common ground between the defence and prosecution that the four had been connected to a betting syndicate in Indonesia, for which Segers and Grobbelian were forecasting the outcomes of football

But the men denied a pros-ecusion claim that the forecasting had been the "bait to catch the fish" and ensnare them in trying to throw games.

The charges were that they had corruptly conspired to give or receive money to try to influence the outcome of football matches - namely football rig-

Grobbelaar, 39, was separately charged with accepting £2,000 from his former business partner and friend, Christopher Vincent, as inducement to influence a game. All denied the

Mr Vincent, like Grobbelaar a Zimbabwean, bad been the main prosecution witness. The court heard how after the

ture he had approached the Sun newspaper in September 1994 with the twin intentions of making as much money as possible and "destroying" Grobbelaar with allegations that the foot-

The Sun had secretly videotaped meetings between the pair in which Mr Vincent pretended to have details of a new betting syndicate; during the meetings the goalkeeper is heard apparently admitting trying to throw matches, including one - against Newcastle - from which he was said to have made £40,000. He also claimed he had . lost" £125,000 after his team Liverpool had drawn 3-3 with Manchester United. The Sun's report in November 1994 led to an investigation by Hampshire

In his evidence Grobbelaar, now with Phymouth Argyle, said he had been stringing Mr Vincent along, to find out who what his former friend was up to and who was behind the meetings. He also said that in an untaped meeting he had told Mr Vincent that fixing matches was silly and could not be done.

The prosecution accepted that Mr Vincent, a failed businessman, had been motivated by greed in approaching the Sun-for which he received £35,000 -but claimed the tapes plus surrounding evidence backed his story. Grobbelaar had been motivated by anger at the level of his pay compared to coleagues as he neared the end of his career, an accusation the

The defence said Mr Vincent had been the "villain" of the

Apart from the tapes, and the testimony of Mr Vincent - who is due to stand trial on another matter - the main prosecution evidence was what they called the "pattern" of tele-phone calls between the defendants, coupled with evidence of "unexplained" payments -some in cash - received by the

Calvert Smith, for the prosecution, had said that Mr Lim, 31, had been the "representative" of the betting syndicate whose role was to recruit footballers to help fix matches. Gladiators presenter Fashanu. 34, now retired, had been the "middle man", said the prose-cution, recruiting the two goalkeepers to fix the matches. There was evidence that Segers had paid in more than £104,000 in cash to a Swiss account, Fashanu had received more than £200,000 from the Far received £500,000.

The defendants admitted they had been involved in match forecasting — which is not illegal though it may breach Football Association guidelines — for the syndicate; but said they had not been involved in rigging any matches. The telephone calls and payments could be explained by the forecasting -Segers and Fashanu also said they had incomes from other le-

The defence also called expert football witnesses such as Bob Wilson, Alan Ball, Gordon Banks and Alan Hansen. None of them said they saw any evidence of attempts to let in piece in contrast with the foot- goals by the goalkeepers.



A tired looking Bruce Grobbelaar leaving Winchester Crown Court with his wife Debbie after the jury failed to reached a verdict on match-fixing allegations yesterday

Justice system's worst nightmare

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

It is the justice system's worst nightmare - a lengthy trial, a string of expensive counsel and solicitors and costs running into hundreds of thousands of

The unenviable decision over whether to embark on an equally lengthy and costly retrial now falls to Barbara Mills QC. the Director of Public Prose-

She is expected to consult the Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, the Attorney General, whose consent had to be sought for the prosecution in the first place because it was being brought under the Prevention of Corruption Act. But the final decision is hers.

The tests for whether a prosecution should be brought are whether there is enough evidence to support a realistic prospect of conviction, and whether the trial would be in the public interest. Retrials after hung-jury verdicts are not that uncommon, but the fact that a jury has failed to agree once on a body of evidence dictates that decisions to press ahead are taken only after careful con-

There is nothing to stop the Crown from running the second trial in a different way, but the chances of finding additional evidence are usually slim.

In high-profile cases, the fact that the issues have been publicly and extensively aired may also be a reason for concluding that the public interest would not be served by rehearsing them again. Recent cases where juries were unable to agree include that of showjumper Harvey Smith, where the jury could not reach a verdict over an assault charge relating to a dispute with a golf course bordering his home. One retrial is

Blair's lords-a-leaping ready to bring down the house

Fraciss

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and the second

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Darling, tout London is talking about it. They say lony Blair might have to create 80 new life peers if he wants control of the House of Lords. Why, the queue is already half way down Millbank!

With the long haul almost over an a Labour victory in sight, the word on the street is that lists are being drawn up for a veritable swattle of new life peers. And there is no shortage of takers among Britain's left-wing elite.

Labour's new model anistocracy will have a job to do, of course, help-ing to push through proposed con-stitutional reforms. Some senior sources say they may have to be drafted in sooner rather than later if hereditary peers' voting rights are to

Safe to say, though, that Mr Blair will not have to look far in his

of party donors, luvvies and other ers on to beat a path to his door.

But the Prime Minister-in-waiting should beware - the road ahead is bristling with pitfalls. What, for ex-

Mr Blair's who made a mint in independent television and who raised a tidy sum for the Labour leadership campaign? Of James Palumbo.

whose Ministry of Sound night club

But wait - there are plenty of show-

biz types who support the Blair cause. And they brighten the place up no end. How about that nice Melvyn Brage,

Edwina Currie

vielvyn Bragg

Damon Albam from the pop

Baroness French of Dibley

Tony Booth

group Blur

Swampy

Michael Levy

Jack Dromey

James Palumbo

Barry Cox

an Clough has been seen wearing red

Well, maybe not. After all, the main qualification for these jobs is

Bringing up the field

Poor bets: Damon Albarn and Edwina Curry

search for worthies who are keen to sport the ermine. All he has to do is to stable and wait for huge crowds

has provided a chauffeur-driven for example? Or Dawn French—she that their incumbents should turn up regularly to vote. After all, too many seems like a nice, church-going type.

Rover for the use of Peter Mandel—seems like a nice, church-going type.

Son and his staff? A tricky business, of the old party faithful have been to the old party faithful kicked upstairs in the past and never seen again. Baroness Falkender, ennobled by Harold Wilson 23 years ago for faithful service as his political secretary, has yet to make her

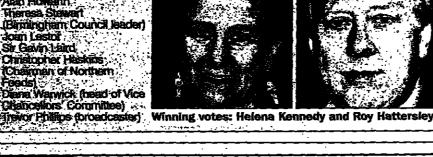
in high-flying posts, who aren't over the hill and who are prepared to give up the day job in favour of the Lords attendance allowance of £32 per day.

So, how about Edwina Currie then? Often seen in Parliament. good pro-European views. But sadly, still a Tory. Labour's Lavender List must be free from discrimination, of course - imagine the shame if Mr Blair's nominees turned out to be all male! - but that might be going too

Jamaican-born Bill Morris of the TGWU would have been an excellent choice, too. But Mr Morris has already said he still has work to do with his union and is not yet ready

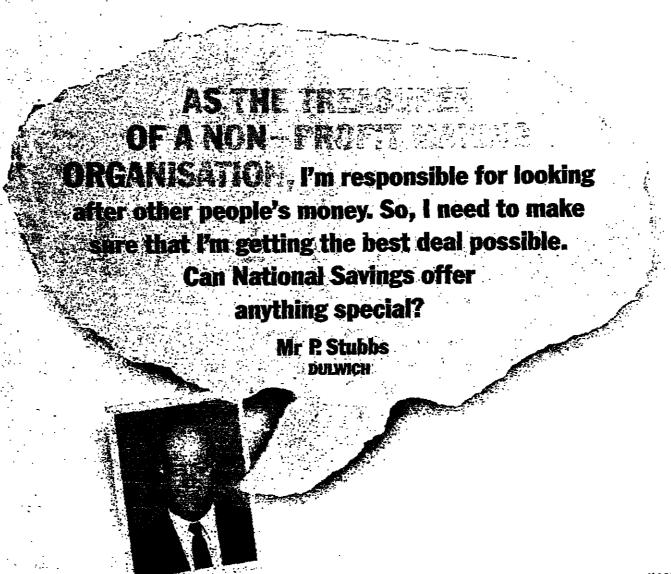
to be elevated. This game is not as easy as it looks. Ah, well, back to the drawing board. Did someone say Kevin Keegan was looking for work?

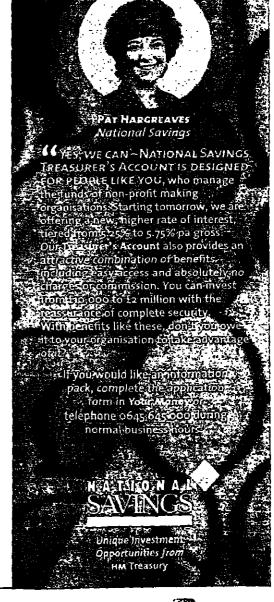
Tony's home bankers Helena Kennedy QC Roy Hättersley Shella McKechnie Sheas Howardt. Alan Howardt. Theresa Stewart (Bippinghem Council leader) Joan Lestoi Sir Gevin Leird Christopher Haskins Champan of Northern Pages Warwick (head of Vice Chancelors Committee)



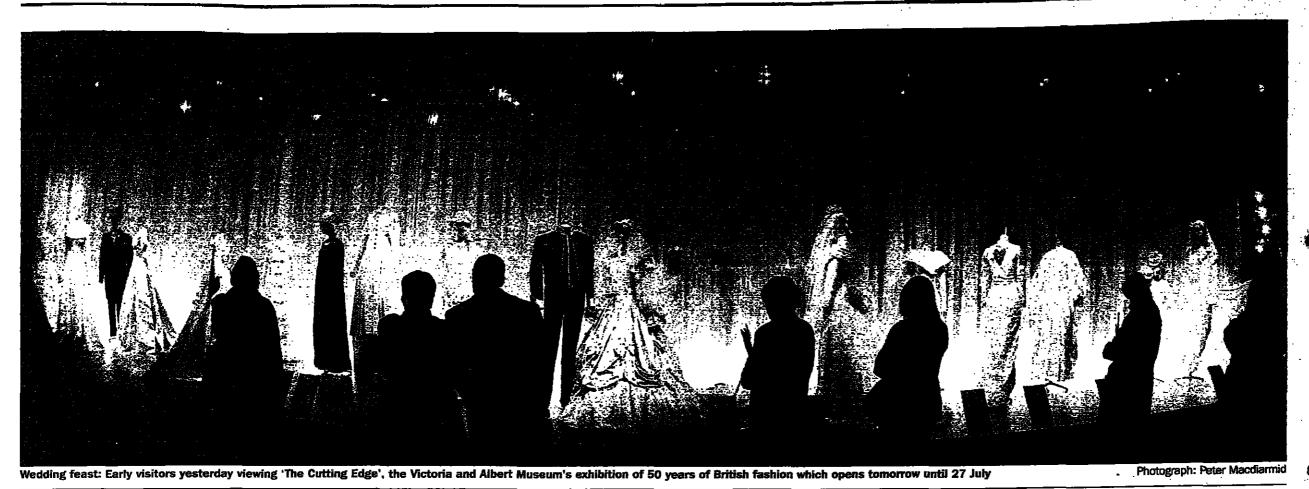


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Water bug claims more victims

Nicole Veash

A company whose water supply has been contaminated with a microscopic parasite yesterday warned there could be further cases of severe stomach sickness, after another five people fell victim to the infection.

And French-owned Three Valleys Water admitted that they still cannot give customers the all-clear because they have not received the results of tests carried out more than 72 hours

ago. On Monday the company issued an emergency boiling water notice to nearly one million customers as a "precautionary measure after public health officials issued a red alert when 32 people contracted a severe

The water-borne micro-organism, cryptosporidium, causes severe diarrhoca lasting up to three weeks and is potentially fatal for children and people who have deficient immune

Communications Manager people the a Frank Fitzpatrick said: "We boil notice." should have had the results within 24 hours and we are wait-

French company still waiting for test results after red alert

ing for them at the moment. Some of the tests carried out on Friday were positive, but at this stage we haven't had a complete list of results from Satur-

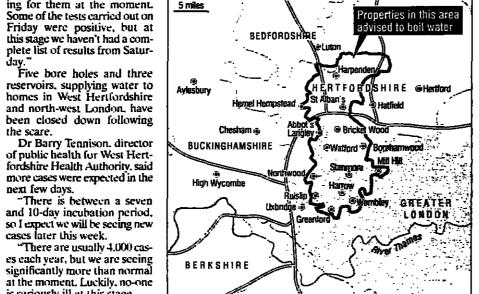
and north-west London, have been closed down following the scare. Dr Barry Tennison, director

of public health for West Hertfordshire Health Authority, said more cases were expected in the There is between a seven

so I expect we will be seeing new cases later this week. "There are usually 4,000 cases each year, but we are seeing significantly more than normal

at the moment, Luckily, no-one is seriously ill at this stage. "It will be some time before we are going to be able to give people the all-clear and lift the

Cryptosporidium belongs to a group of protozoa occurring in



the dung of farm animals, which can be washed from agricultural land into nearby rivers. It is normally spread through

the Drinking Water Inspeccontaminated water or contact

Incredible as it sounds, some

of the leading health insurers

place financial limits on cover

for surgeons', anaesthetists'

Besides this, some won't fully

cover out-patient treatment

such as x-rays, scans and

diagnostic tests. And others

offer no provision for alter-

Primecare, a policy from

the most remarkable thing

about it is the price, which is

equivalent to some companies

and physicians' fees.

native medicine.

budget schemes,

pasterised milk and offal also carry risks. Independent inspectors from

with an infected person, but un-

torate yesterday met Three Val-ley officials for the first time to carry out a detailed investigation into the outbreak.

A spokeswoman for the Department of the Environment said: "If we find that the companies have been negligent in their testing of water supplies, then we reserve the right to prosecute them."

The first confirmed cases of cryptosporidium in tap water in the UK emerged in 1989 when 500 people were affected in Oxfordshire and North Humberside.

Thames Water later offered £62,000 compensation to the 62 people who fell ill.

In 1995 an outbreak in south Devon left 575 people sick. South West Water are now facing prosecution charged with supplying water unfit for human

Philip Lightowlers, of the Environmental Data Service, said: "We may be seeing a rise in the number of outbreaks. There is a possibility that increased drought causes ground

water supplies to change their "Rather than the rocks act-

mg as a natural filtration, weaning out cryptosporidium, arched cracks may be forming allowing the organism to pass through the enlarged gaps.' A Derbyshire company claims it has the technology to

stop cryptosporidium ever oc-Memcor Ltd, which specialises in water treatment, say

it can prevent similar waterborne outbreaks occurring. The company uses Continuous Microfiltration, a mem-

brane technology which uses pores to stop contaminants from entering the water supply. Andy Walton, spokesman for Memcor, said: "We use a strawlike fibre which acts as a filter with pores which are 0.2 microns

"Something like cryp-tosporidium is five microns so it naturally cannot pass through

the filter. Britain's water companies would have to pay around £8m if they decided to invest in the latest technology to treat the country's supplies.

Mother tells of prison death

A teenager who is believed to have killed herself gave no in-dication in a final telephone call the day before her death of what she was going to do, her mother told an inquiry into the suspected suicides of three women at Cornton Vale prison, near Stirling - Scotland's only all-

women jail yesterday. Anne Bollan, 48, of Renton, Dumbartonshire, who was the first witness to give evidence at the fatal accident inquiry, said her daughter had always been cheerful despite fighting drug addiction.

Angela Bollan, 19, a single mother, is believed to have killed herself last April after being remanded for a month for reports before being sentenced for theft and contravention of bail. Six months later, Denise Devine, 26, of Edinburgh, was found dead in her cell while on remand at the prison. And on Christmas Eve, Yvonne Gilmour, 22, of Renfrew, is thought to have taken her own life while serving a three-month sentence for shoplifting, breach

of the peace and assault.

Three other women killed themselves at the prison in the last 18 months.

Mrs Bollan told the inquiry at Stirling Sheriff Court that her daughter, who would have been 20 tomorrow, sought treatment for her addiction several times at units in Glasgow before she was remanded at the jail last April for the third time.

Mrs Bollan said she kept in contact with her daughter while she was on remand, writing

letters and visiting her. Mrs Bollan said that on her last visit to her daughter on 19 April 1996, she warned of the effect it was having on the

up every single day because Stephanie was beginning to take notice of her surroundi Angela said that was fine," Mrs Bollan told the court. She said Angela had telephoned her the day before her death and had given no indication that she was considering suicide.

The hearing at Stirling Sheriff Court was adjourned until

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Parer who f

The Mini bounces back to life ... but not as we know it

Jonathan Glancey

The successor to the world-famous Mini was launched at the Geneva Motor Show yesterday. And erm,

If the new bug-shaped car is, at first glance, a disappointment, this is because it has been virtually impossible for Rover, its maker, to repeat the sensation caused by the original car on its debut 38 years ago. Sir Alec Issigonis's legendary design has been in production, with remarkably few changes, ever since, and although the original Mini sells in fairly small numbers today, the car has remained a cult classic as well as a practical, if noisy, way of nipping through city traffic

Just 10-feet long, yet seating four adults, taking a sizeable chunk of luggage, and immense fun to drive, the Mini was well-received since its inception, but was never a commercial success. Its original manufacturer, the Autocar readers voted Issagonis's miniature masterpiece the Car of the ration, was incapable of making a decent profit on the little car, even though it generated enormous pub-licity and goodwill in the early Sixties. Wolkswagen Beetle.





Socties icons: The original Mini and the new Volkswagen Beetle

Taken up by fashionable photog-raphers (Lord Snowdon), comics (Pe-ter Sellers), Beatles (John Lennon), racing successfully in the Monte Carlo Rally and starring, along with Michael Caine and Noël Coward, in The Italian Job, the Mini was the car "organic" design has swept through motor-industry design studios over of the decade. Last year a poll of the past five years. The Ford Ka. Daminiature masterpiece the Car of the Century, ahead of such historic and genham's new "super-mini", is clear-ly derived from the same school of best-selling rivals as Henry Ford's design, as is the up-and-coming Mercedes-Benz city car. Graduates of the Royal College of Art's car-

From certain views the new Mini design school, which has nurtured the looks rather like VW's retro-Beetle approach for 10 years, have spread the style-language to all four corners of the auto-world. The new Mini is which goes on sale in Britain soon. This is probably less the result of BMW's ownership of Rover than the fact that an obsession with bug-like not especially distinctive. For better or worse, the 1959 Mini

was largely the product of one man's design skills. Issigonis's car bounced onto the road on its tiny 10-inch wheels very much as its Smyrna-born engineer intended - free from compromise and the dead-hand of design committees and marketing studies. The latest BMW-Rover Mini (the



Into the future: The new Mini, as unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show

car will be branded as a Mini without reference to its makers) is the product of compromise. To an extent this is a relief: Issigonis initially refused to include a heater in the first Minis, because, or so this unrepentant functionalist argued, these would cause drivers to fall asleep.

The raucous, anti-sleep BMC Aseries engine that powered the Mini for many years will make way for a Chrysler engine built in Brazil. Prototypes shown at Geneva in-

clude a five-door hatchback version. suggesting Rover is more interested in competing with the "super-mini"

market. The original Mini occupies a slot in which it has become the only choice. Other upmarket bubble cars such as the Fiat 500, Datsun No00 and Hillman Imp have long since vanished. The latest car from Rover is a Mini, but not as Alec Issigonis, John Lennon and Twigev knew it.

Parents who fail could be tagged

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The most extreme cases of bad parenting would be criminalised under the latest initiative against youth crime from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Those who failed in their parental responsibilities and spurn offers of support would be at risk of a parental control order, punishable if breached by an electronic tagging order, a £1,000 fine, a probation order or removal of their driving li-cence. Mr Howard said in a

New inter-agency groups child-crime teams - would idenufy children at risk of offending, referring them and their parents, if appropriate, to a suitable local scheme to reduce the risk of offending.

Green Paper.

The aim is to target children of 16 or under, including those under 10 who cannot be brought before the criminal courts, whose behaviour is likely to lead to offending as well as those who have already notched up convictions. Parents would be at risk of an order where the behaviour was judged to have resulted from their own lack of care and control.

But the paper, "Preventing Children Offending", found a lukewarm reception from penal experts, who welcomed its emphasis on early intervention but warned that the punitive elements would do little to reduce

delinquency. Courts already possess a panoply of criminal and civil powers to deal with errant children. Mary Honeyball, general secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation said: "Magistrates already have the power to fine parents of risk of agg young offenders. This power is offending.

know it does not work."

Mr Howard insisted, however, that there was a fine distinction between his proposed new order, which would be subject to extensive piloting, and what had gone before. The order itself is not a criminal offence. It is a way of encouraging parents to face

However, the criminal law would come into play where par-ents "unreasonably" refused to comply with an order, failed to comply with conditions attached their child was at home at certain hours, or putting right damage, making an apology or cleaning up graffiti or where the parents' behaviour clearly showed they were not exercis ing proper care and control over the child. The penalty of a curiew order, monitored by electronic tagging, might reomire the parents to "stay at home in the evening where the could keep an eye on their chil-

dren", the paper says.

Ms Honeyball said: "Fines and curiews will only increase the feeling of inadequacy. Those parents who will not on cannot take responsibility for their children are unlikely to respond to punitive measures which may increase domestic tension and result in the child being taken into care."

Pani Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consorming. said: "The Green Paper is a neculiar mixture of constructive ideas to prevent delinquency and punitive parent-bashing measures which will do nothing to cut youth crime. The response will often be excessive physical punishment of the child, which in turn increases the risk of aggression and further

10% off.

Irish army defuse loyalist bomb

Alan Murdock Dublin

Loyalist paramilitaries are believed to have planted a bomb containing commercial explosive in Monaghan town in the Irish Republic, close to the border with Northern Ireland.

The device, found in a yard behind a Sinn Fein office on Monday, was the first loyalist homb discovered south of the horder since the Combined Loyalist Military Command

01992 500 612

announced its ceasefire in October 1994.

Gardaí suggested the crudely-made bomb, left in a plastic holdall, may have failed to go off because of faulty construction. A man living in a nearby flat heard the detonator explode. But it failed to set off the main bomb, which was made safe by an Irish army bomb disposal unit.

The device in Monaghan is believed to have consisted of several pounds of Powergel, a type of commercial explosive which was previously used by the loyalist UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) in devices planted in Dublin in 1994, neither of which exploded.

A new level of detente will be reached today when Orangemen meet an Irish minister, Avril Doyle, to discuss ways in which they may be included in next year's bi-centennial celchrations of the 1798 United Irishmen's rebellion, which sought to launch an insurrection based on the ideals of the French Revolution.

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Epistles at dawn for champions of Jesus and St Paul



AN Wilson: "If it was not for Paul we would never have heard of Jesus"

A writer dismisses Christ as a minor 'Galilean exorcist', and brings down the wrath of theologians

Kate Watson-Smyth

They're calling it Epistles at Dawn and it is likely to be a bitterly fought and bloody duel. It hinges on the startling theory put forward by a former high-Anglican novelist that Jesus Christ was not the founder of the Church; it

was, in fact, his friend Saint Paul.

The author of this theory is the writer
AN Wilson who says that Jesus was simply a minor "Galilean exorcist" and just one of many messiahs knocking around that region

2,000 years ago.

He argues that Christianity in fact owes its existence to Paul, whose vision on the road to Damascus led him to claim a new covenant and to put forward a view of Christ as Saviour and the Cross as the gateway to salvation.

This theory flies in the face of conventional Christian belief and Wilson was instantly challenged to a public debate by the Dean of Lichfield, the Very Rev Tom Wright, a Pauline scholar who claims that Wilson has got

"everything completely upside down".

He said: "There has always been a lot of lively debate about Paul and his role in Christianity but really Mr Wilson has got it all

'The argument about Paul's role in the founding of Christianity has been going on for ages and serious scholars of all shapes and

sizes gave them up long ago.
There is no doubt that Mr Wilson is a talented and elegant writer but he has got it quite wrong and he should stick to writing

Wilson was unfazed by this attack and stuck rigidly to his guns: "If it was not for Paul we

would never even have heard of Jesus.

"Paul brought Judaism to the Gentile world and as far as he was concerned Jesus was the equivalent of the unknown soldier. We put a lot of our thoughts into that tomb at Westminster and we have no idea who is in it and it does not really matter. In the same way, Jesus is simply the focus for Christianity."

Dr Wright said he was worried about the harm such radical theories could provoke and challenged Wilson to a public debate.

"He has always refused to debate the subject properly with me until now but I believe he has now agreed," he said triumphantly. "I don't know where and I don't know when

but we will have that debate."
Others seemed reluctant to join the fray. A spokesman for the Synod of the Church of England said its members could not possibly enter the debate on who started the Church.
"There is no call for the Church of England to
have a major view on Paul so we leave all that

to the theologians," he said. "The Church never takes an official

position on reflections such as these - the Synod does not go in for debate," he added So, then, to find a theologian with an opinion on the far-reaching question of who

started the Church. James Dunn, the Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University, said that Wilson's book was just the latest in a long line

of new theories. "There's a new theory put forward about every 10 years and it gets discussed for a while and then forgotten about," he said.

Canon Professor Robin Gill, of the University of Kent, Canterbury, seemed to prefer the "if it's not broken don't mend it" school of thought.

"It is in the nature of universities to pose radical questions and debate them but it is not something that should be put into the public arena as a lot of people will not have the background knowledge and understanding to discuss it and they may find it offensive.

'If there is a coherent picture of Jesus in the Gospels, and there is, then why not start with that. There is no need to start turning everything upside down and spending a lot of time speculating for the sake of it," he said.



Dr Wright: Wilson has got "everything completely upside down"

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Child intensive care needs concentrating

Social Affairs Correspondent

Intensive care beds for children. should be concentrated in a few large regional centres, rather than being dotted around district general hospitals, according to an expert advisory.

The national advisory body on paediatric intensive care, meeting in London yesterday, said 250 beds could be concentrated in as few as 16 centres compared to the 30 main centres which now deal with intensive care for children.

The news comes as it was revealed that a three-year-old girl, flown 200 miles for hospital treatment, has died. Jodie Levy, from Doxford Park, Sunderland, was taken to the Glenfield Hospital in Leicester last Wednesday by helicopter to undergo specialist treatment

for meningococcal septicaemia. She needed specialist treatment to put oxygen into her blood to counter the effects of meningococcal septicaemia;

doctors in Sunderland had been unable to offer such treatment. Sources close to the National

Co-ordinating Group on the Provision of Paediatric Intensive Care said it will recommend that future policy should allow for about two centres per region, with at least eight intensive-care beds per centre as a minimum. This would compare to the

present situation, where many general hospitals. About 12,000 children are admitted to intensive care each year. The majority of units have six beds or less, though some have more than The result is that about 40 per cent of children in intensive care are treated on children's wards, or in adult units, rather than in specialised units.

The group is also urging the training of more staff to specialise in paediatric intensive care, as the outcomes for children are much better where dedicated staff are treating them. "It cannot be done on a part time basis," one source

nurses who work on paediatric intensive care wards have trained specifically in this speciality, though 90 per cent are trained to work with children. The group was expected to call

for the number of those specifically trained to be doubled. The best results for children are services with dedicated medical nursing staff who have gone through the proper training," the source added.

Retrieval systems should also be improved, with senior staff being sent in the ambulance to collect the child. There would need to be agreed arrange-ments with the control units over how children would be transferred. Parents should also be transferred with their children. Anthony Harrison, fellow in health policy analysis at the King's fund, said the idea "was aimed at reducing risk" but that good retrieval practices were essential if deaths were to be avoided.

Ann Coffey, Labour health spokeswoman, called for more

At present, only half the research to be done to make sure that the number of beds was sufficient. She added that any overhaul

of specialist centres would inevitably require close inspection of primary and secondary care. The group was set up in June last year following the report into paediatric intensive care by the NHS executive which promised 30 extra beds

and called for specialist staff and greater flexibility. sparked by the crisis of the pre vious winter, when hundreds of children in need of intensive care beds had to be turned away from major hospitals, prompting widespread criticism of government policy from doctors

and patients' groups.

The crisis peaked with the death of Nicholas Geldard, 10, in December 1995. He suffered a brain haemorrhage at home in Stockport, Cheshire and was ferried, already braindead to Leeds after hospitals in Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield turned him away.

Ban on creating human clones must be tightened up, MPs say

Charles Arthur Science Editor

MPs have called an urgent meeting today to clarify whether British law needs to be tightened to close a loophole that might allow the creation of human ciones.

The cross-party Science and Technology Select Committee the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to clarify the position. Under the HFE Act, which became law in 1991, cloning human embryos is banned. But the technology used to create Dolly the sheep, a clone of an adult sheep, did not use an embryo. It used an unfertilised egg cell and the nucleus of a normal cell.

That leaves open the possi-bility that somebody might be able take cells from an adult and insert them into unfertilised egg cells and try to produce a clone. If the cells were taken with consent from an adult woman, she might also provide

the egg cells, opening up the

odd possibility that somebody could lawfully clone themselves. The HFEA's confidence was dented by the recent decision of the Appeal Court to overturn its ban on the use by the widow Diane Blood of sperm taken from her husband while he was in a coma. Although the Act had been thought watertight, it was breached there. MPs fear something similar could happen

"It's a legal question that we

can get out of the way by talk-ing to them," said Dr Jeremy Bray, a Labour member of the committee yesterday.

Tomorrow, the committee will question representatives of the teams who did the breakthrough research at the Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics in Scotland.

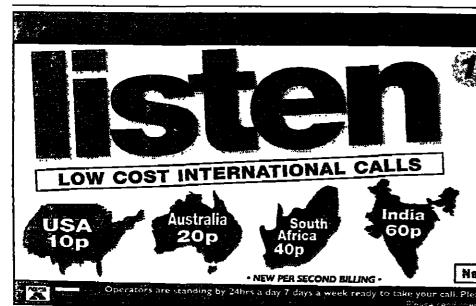
Despite the brief period remaining until Parliament is dis-solved for the general election, the committee plans to rush out a report on cloning. "We had to

move quickly," said Dr Bray.
The reverberations from the Scottish work continue to spread. President Bill Clinton yesterday banned the use of US government funds for human cloning experiments, warning that humanity should "resist the

President Clinton asked for a voluntary moratorium on human cloning experiments in the US, at least until the legal and ethical issues can be sorted out. Since privately funded scientists are not covered by his directive, he said only a voluntary moratorium would ensure ethical issues are fully debated.

Researchers in Oregon who last year cloned monkey embryos said they had no desire to reproduce a human.

Mr Clinton said there was a need to resolve the desire to use cloning to cure disease "without raising the kind of ethical implications that, in effect, we're in the business where people are trying to play God".



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Police to seek missing Manics lyricist in Goa

Interpol, the international police organisation, is to be alert-ed about a possible sighting in India of Richey Edwards, the missing member of the Manic Street Preacher rock group.

Detectives from Scotland Yard have questioned Viv Morris, a lecturer in media studies at Neath College in South Wales, who believes he saw the missing musician at a market in the holiday region of Goa. They believe Mr Morris is a reliable witness and are taking his report

Interpol and the Indian police are to be given descriptions and photographs of Mr Edwards who wrote lyrics and played guitar for the award winning Welsh band, before disappearing, aged 28, in February 1995 while being treated

for depression. His passport and credit cards were found in his flat in Cardiff and, two weeks later, his car was found at Aust service station, next to the M4. Its car park overlooks the Severn Bridge and is a favourite spot for suicides. However, his body has not been found, prompting claims by many of his fans that he may still be alive.

A spokeswoman for the Manic Street Preachers said yesterday: "Everyone is very upset by these reports. We are concerned [about Richey] the



friend of the band. There have been a number of sightings and the whole thing upsets a lot of people." She added that the members of the band did not want to comment.

Mr Morris, who said he was "seven-and-a-half out of 10" convinced the man he saw was the musician, said he now regrets the fuss his claim has caused. He saw a man with long hair who looked like Mr Edwards last November. A stranger said that he was called "Rich" and had arrived in Goa about 18 months before.

Mr Morris told BBC Radio 4's Today programme he had mentioned the sighting in passing during an interview, and the matter had been "seized on". He was now concerned about the "palaver and distress" caused to Mr Edwards' parents. He added

worked so hard to gain this anonymity to be left alone. A spokesman from Scotland Yard said: "We questioned Mr Morris on Monday. We are fairly confident this is a serious report. The sighting was made in November last year so where the person it now is hard to say. The indications are that it is a

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positive lead." He stressed that Mr Edwards was not wanted for any criminal activity. "He might be marked down as a vulnerable person and we would want to see that he was OK."

The controversy comes a week after his former group won best band and best album in the music industry's Brit awards. Mr Edwards' parents, who live in Blackwood, Gwent, are said to share his fans' optimism and have clung to sporadic sightings of their son, which have been reported in Ger-

many, New York, Bedfordshire

and Worcestershire.

Making music: Iona Coltart, 17, and Charles Rice, 16, choristers with the Chapel Choir of The King's School, Canterbury, school's ancient Memorial Court in advance of the choir's concert at St John's, Smith Square, in London last night

New train order signals advance of privatisation

Transport Correspondent

The first major order for new trains since Britain's railways were privatised was announced

London Tilbury Southend, which runs commuter services between London and Essex. placed a 44-train order with Derby-based Adtranz LTS, taken over by Prism last year, had been dubbed Britain's "misery line" by passengers forced to use the company's creaking 30year-old slam-door carriages. The new 100mph sliding-

door trains are superior to the older carriages. Equipped with air conditioning and wider seats, they have electronic information boards in every carriage. They should be in service by 1999 and managers predict that they will

managers predict that they will
cut journey times by 10 per cent.
"The new trains will offer a
vast improvement for passengers and are of the very latest
design," said Bob Howells, LTS

chairman.

The privatisation of British
Rail saw a collapse in the trainbuilding market. In the five
years before its sale. BR bought

by Thomas McCarthy

Press, price 17.95.

DAILY POEM

Talking to Gerry Adams, 1994

We are three floors above your foot-soldiers, which is the right of those who exchange ideas.

which is the right of those who exchange ideas.

We know nothing about fuses:
we detonate opinions and views.
Your handsome face (the face of Sean Moylan in Keating's Men of the South), has no pain visible to me. It has absorbed politics, and flying columns of documents.

Today it's the "productive atmosphere of peace" after war. I find myself switching sides already. Maybe this is what poets are for

in a destitute time. To stay apart from the Dail. Thinking finds a Protestant in me; and Ulster, an autonomous region of the heart.

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This poem comes from The Lost Province, the latest collection by Cork-based writer Thomas McCarthy. The volume's tion by Cork-based writer Thomas McCarthy. The volume's tion sequence reflects the experience of the Northern Irish cease title sequence reflects the experience of the Northern Irish cease title sequence of 1993 to 1994. The Lost Province is published by Anvil 1995.

HOUSE INSURANCE

|| Hill House Hammond

whereas privatisation has seen only 12 new carriages ordered

by a private operator - Chiltern.
This is great news for our company and we hope it will signal the start of a new rail revolution in the UK and growth in the industry," said Stig Svard, the company's UK chief executive. A company spokeslikely to lead to new jobs."

The company had as many as 6,000 employees in the late 1980s. But with orders drying up, numbers at Derby have dwindled to about 1,000.

Private firms have promised

Private firms have promised much, but delivered little, in return for the chance to run the nation's train set. National Express, which operates Gatwick Express franchise, is poised to buy eight new trains and French firm Connex are also set to invest in more than 100 trains for its Kant communications. its Kent commuter services.

its Kent commuter services.

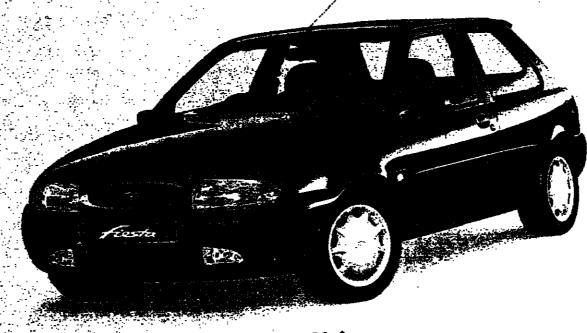
Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, said: "This is good news for British industry and is further evidence of the benefits which rail privatisation is bringing to rail passengers."

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Bare night on a cold mountain

nother day, another poster. Sensitive to charges of negative advertising Dr Mawhinney and the Crispins negative advertising Dr Mawhinney and the Crispin-from the Tory ad agency, had put their heads together and come up with something more positive. This was the clever idea of a visual pun involving the Labour Leader in juxtaposition to some appalling consequence of Labour victory. So number one was "Tony & Bill", showing the Rt Hon Anthony Charles Lynton Blair and - a bill (for 30 billion quid). Heehee.

This really got us in the office going. In their dark hour, how could we do other than help out the Conservatives with a few ideas of our own for future posters in this series? Our favourites were: Tony & John, featuring a lavatory down which Britain's prospects would disappear, Tony & Mike, with a microphone and an attack on sound-bite politics: Tony & Nick, depicting a crumbling prison - complete with escaping murderers: Tony & Jerry, indicating a Britain in thrall to Helmut Kohl and his Eurofederalists; and - finally (only if all else is failing and Labour is still 20 per cent ahead on April 30th) - Tony & Dick.

As I was faxing these ideas to my friends at Central Office, I caught a BBC bulletin concerning the engagement

of William Hague, the 35-year-old Secretary of State for Wates, to one Ffion Jenkins. Ms Jenkins (who has just - in my opinion - become affianced to the next Conservative Prime Minister) apparently taught Mr Hague the words of Sospan Fach and then "enlightened him on a windy hillside in N. Wales". I feel an affinity for Mr Hague; in 1976 I was similarly enlightened by a young woman on a hill above Llandudno during a National Union of Students conference. It was at once the hottest and coldest experience I have ever had. *Pob luc, William bach!*Then, just before I went into the Chamber. SkyNews

showed a picture of some schoolchildren and the reporter's voice spoke of "five year olds facing tanks and curfews". On the day that the Government announced its proposals for dealing with juvenile crime, this was ominous, to say the least. Would Jack Straw hold a press conference, and argue that tanks were insufficiently robust, and that sowing land-mines outside schools would deter truancy more effectively? I pointed this out to a colleague. "Not tanks, idjot," she said affectionately, "tags!" Tags for five-year-olds? And I thought the world had gone mad! What a relief!

I wasn't the only happy bunny in the House. Labour MPs were – understandably – very mellow. Every time a marginal Tory stood up they waved at him and sang "bye-bye" in funny little voices. And they want to lock five year olds up!

What was odder, however, was that the Prime Minister should be in such a relaxed, almost valedictory mood. Tony needled him concerning the mal mots of Mr Health Secretary Decibel. Shouldn't Decibel be attending personally to the crisis in the Health Service (a frightening thought this, Decibel in surgical mask yelling "NURSE! SCALPEL!!!"), rather than creating a crisis in the Cabinet? No, replied Mr Major mildly, Decibel "has been an outstanding Health Secretary". But a disastrous leadership candidate. he didn't add.

As Ben Chapman, the victor of Wirral, was led to sign his name in the members' book and the Opposition waved their order papers (I blame the parents). Mr Major gave the new MP a hearty handshake, and left the Chamber. smiling; more relaxed than I have seen him for months. Or resigned, perhaps? But when I last spotted Mr Chapman. he was wandering about behind the Speaker's chair, looking lost, - a metaphor for the political moment.

Major fighting phantom enemy

Voters' desire for change after 18 years of Tory rule seen as uphill challenge

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The "phantom enemy" which the Government is fighting in the general election is the fact that the Tories have been in power for 18 years, the Prime Minister said vesterdav.

John Major shared the view of many ministers that the Conservatives' biggest challenge in the election will be overcoming the public mood that it is "time for a change" after four successive terms of office.

Asked why the Tories could not get its act together, Mr Ma-jor said on BBC Radio Five: "Eighteen years is the principle problem." He added: "The difficulty we have at the moment is not with the state of the country - it's patently growing, you can see that with the growth in the economy and the fall in unemployment.

But when you have been in government for 18 years you are fighting in a sense a phantom enemy and I think that is a bigger problem for us than any

Ministers privately believe the longevity factor is one reason why the upturn in the economy - hailed by the Chancellor. Kenneth Clark, last Monday night - is failing to feed through into the "feel-good factor" for the Tories and close Labour's lead in the opinion polls.

As the Prime Minister handled questions in a 45-minute phonein programme. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, unveiled a new Tory campaign poster to replace the Tory lion shedding red tears, which is regarded as a failure.

The new poster attempts to hit at alleged Labour spending



figures, depicting Tony Blair studying a bill for £30bn. The slogan. "Tony & Bill", may leave voters as bemused as the lion posters did. Conservative Central Office sources said it was not poking fun at Labour's attempts to ape some of the campaign techniques of the United States President, Bill Clinton. "Mr Blair is looking at a bill. It is nothing to do with

Mr Major defended the

Tories' negative campaigning as a success, and he told one sympathiser that it was important to point out the risks to the electorate, which tended to think that as the economy was doing

well, it was safe to vote Labour. The Prime Minister also left little doubt that 1 May would be the election date, which is fast becoming the worst-kept secret in Whitchall. "There is a fair expectation. I think I will announce it in the normal row over the European single

constitutional way." He fell silent when pressed to say it would be 1 May.

As he handled hostile questions with politeness, Mr Major's performance was a foretaste of the personal charm offensive be is planning to lead in the election campaign. He refused to be irritated, even by last weekend's gaffe by Stephen Dorrell. the Secretary of State for Health, which reopened the

currency after strendous efforts had been made to reunite the Cabinet behind the Government's "wait-and-see" policy.

"He made a mistake. He's human, as we all are ... We all make mistakes. I make mistakes. Everybody makes mistakes from time to time," said Mr Major.

The Prime Minister, a Chelsea supporter, was also in forgiving mood to the football referee, who awarded a penal-

cision, which has led to demands for video evidence to be used by football referees on the pitch, was a mistake, Mr Major said.

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"I don't think it was a penalty...Everyone has been beastly to the referee. It is a hell of a job to be a referee. I sympathise. He had to make the decision running around for two hours.

ty last week which put Leices-

ter out of the FA Cup. The de-

Mrs Dorrell puts her faith in the NHS

Chief Political Correspondent

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, and his wife. Penelope, are expecting their

month in an NHS hospital. The Health Secretary, whose

son and daughter were born in NHS hospitals, has private health insurance, but his wife third child to be born this healthcare system and will be us-

ing the NHS for the delivery of former commitments to re-

has put her faith in the state's 1987 general election campaign some unions, offer private market" in the NHS. healthcare system and will be usby insisting she wanted the dochealth cover for their workers. The report, by the l tor of her choice at the time of her choice.

Now, the Dorrell family's support for the NHS comes amid expectations that the Tory general election manifesto will commit the Tories to a publiclyfunded health service, and will deny any switch to a general insurance-based system. Mr Dorrell. like Lady Thatcher, sees his private bealth insurance as a 'safety net" for his family's health care, which can be called

Labour has abandoned its

but it could still be a flashpoint in the election, with Labour continuing to claim that the Tories

are intent on privatising the

After Mr Dorrell's gaffe over ruling out Britain's entry into the European single currency, Tony Blair yesterday told John Major at Prime Minister's Question Time that Mr Dorrell should concentrate on the crisis in the health service, rather than the

crisis in his party. Mr Blair disclosed that an independent report tomorrow

move private beds from the Accident and Emergency units Baroness Thatcher famous-ly defended her use of private private health cover has defused sis". The problem was being are facing "acute and chronic crimedicine in the midst of the as more employers, including made worse by the "internal The report, by the NHS Sup-

port Federation, which said last night it lends no support to any urised service struggling to cope with demand". The report, entitled A and E: NHS in Distress, is critical of the marketbased system which it claims makes a coordinated response to rising demand almost

"We cannot simply redirect resources from other hospital services to A and E. We need a constructive and full response to give the public new confi-

said Janet Porter, a casualty consultant at Southend.

Some NHS officials fear that some family doctors are passing their patients on to casualty units to jump the queues for hos pital treatment. There were also fears that an unexplained six per

To cope with an expected upsurge in demand, Mr Dorrell allocated a fund of £25m for intensive care, mental health and continuing care. The extra money was intended to help tide the NHS over until April, when the additional £1.6bn for the health service announced in the Budget becomes available.

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Scientist denies testing animals from Gulf War

The Ministry of Defence admitted last night that Parliament may have been misled by Earl Howe, the Defence minister, over the fate of animals whose deaths may have been linked to the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf War.

Former soldiers who served. in the conflict have told The Independent they believe that camels, sheep and domestic animals which died in the war were killed by pesticides.

Army chiefs ordered that the animal corpses be sent back to the UK for scientific tests to determine the cause of their deaths. Last July, in response to a Parliamentary question, Earl Howe told Parliament the ex-

periments at an Edinburgh veterinary centre had shown the animals died of natural causes. But last night, after inquiries by The Independent and Grana-da Television, the director of the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Edinburgh, which Earl Howe said carried out the

tests, said he had no record of such work ever being done. Professor David Taylor said staff at the centre had no recollection of such tests. He has written to Earl Howe asking for ural causes or such things as eatan explanation of the informa-

"I have gone back through all our computerised records, and we have no record of ever having done this work."

He added: "I have written to Earl Howe and asked him if he could let me know exactly who received these sample because we are at a loss to know where this information in Hansard

comes from. The MoD said it had begun an internal inquiry into how the minister had been misinformed. A spokesman said: "We are

getting all the paperwork out to see who advised the minister in his reply. Perhaps there is confusion in the name of the learned body [which did the experiments]. It seems clearly to have not been the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine."

Last July the Countess of Mar, who has taken a special interest in the effects of organophosphate insecticides and other chemicals on British troops, asked whether the animals had been exposed to nerve gas.

In his reply Earl Howe said: Samples from dead animals were sent back to the Edinburgh Veterinary School and Tropical Medicine Centre [sic] and all were found to have died of nat-

given, the MoD was denying the use of organophosphate insecticides (ops) in the Gulf War.

Three months later, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces minister, apologised to the House and said he had been misinformed: ops had been used to protect troops from desert pests.

Yesterday, troops who served in the conflict told of how they were ordered to put the animal carcasses into plastic bags to be flown back to Britain.

Cpl Richie Turnbull, a Chester-based RAF veteran, said: "All the flies on the animals were dead as well. It was very strange." He said that he was sure that the dead animals were being sent back to military labs.

Sgt Angus Parker, a laboratory technician who was working for scientists from the Porton Down chemical and biological defence establishment in Wiltshire, attributes the animal deaths to the use of pesticides.

He said he accompanied body-bags containing animals as they were flown to Boscombe Down, the military airport in Wiltshire, close to Porton Down. "They were taken away in lorries and I am pretty sure they were not going to Scot-land," he added.



إ هكذا من الأصل

Handshake of victory: Tony Blair welcoming Ben Chapman, who became the new Labour MP for South Wirral after his victory in the by-election last week, at the House of Commons yesterday

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

Blair's first question showed that he wasn't Blair looking to entrap Major with clever facts, but was using the NHS as a launching pad for a "the Government must go" conclusion.

Major concentrated on Labour's opposition to Major Consensative Health policy, and said Blair should stop "harping on". As always, the two leaders presented polarised views of the NHS.

Blair asked whether Stephen Dorrell should "concentrate on dealing with the crisis in the NHS rather than adding to the crisis in the Conse THE CHAPPER IS THE HAS been an outstanding Secretary of State". Blass asked about a survey saying that many accident and emergency departments were in crisis. Major said Labour had opposed all the improvement the Conservatives had made to "create a modern NHS". Blair said if Major the Conservatives had made to "create a modern NHS". ras so confident, he should call an election.

 The Northern Ireland devolved assembly (Clive Soley, Lab, Hammersmin servative fightback* (Paddy Ashdown)

• The date of the General Election (Helen Jac ive success (Peter Luff, C, Worcester)

Jackson: "Following the very decisive statement by the voters of Wirral last week, will the PM . . . tell us whether or not the General Election will be on May 1st?" Major said that firstly, he wanted to congratulate the new MP for Wirral South, Ben Char man. He then sat down without making a second point.

so literally? Lord Tebbit . . . Lord McAlpine . . . and the Health so merany: coro report . . . Loru moraphie . . . and the reason Secretary . . In deciding how to deal with these delinquents, has the PM ever considered that he might make use of secure accommodation and electronic tagging? Major was seized by the giggles, and had to look at the Speaker to regain his composure.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY . Luff: "This country has the most successful economy of any terests of the UK in Europe, and... prepared to protect the unity of the UK and itsinfluence around the world, and wouldn't all this be put at risk by the policies of the party oppos

Court backs council over £21m subsidy

Although the Act governing

This involved a one-off pay-

gued it was entitled to a subsidy

of £20.9m. The Secretary of

State for the Environment had

argued that if the council had

adopted the new accounting

method before 1990, no adjust-

ment would have been necessary.

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Westminster Correspondent

The Department of the Environment faces a £300m hole in its budget after losing a court case against Camden Council over the rules governing hous-

Camden in north London is expected to receive £20.9m as a result of Court of Appeal vic-tory and a further 15 other councils are expected to benefit from the judgment made yes-

Steve Bundred, Camden Council's chief executive, said: This is a victory for common sense and for long-suffering council tenants." He said that cuts in the Government's housing grant over years have left many of its estates with simply no cash for vital repairs" and that the extra money could now be used for housing investment.

The extremely complicated

case centred on whether the judgment that he was prepared DoE was obliged to pay a subto accept that the Secretary of sidy when the council made a State intended that the subsidy change to its accounting practice should not be paid, but had not worded a directive clearly for its housing revenue account. Camden, along with other counenough to achieve this. cils, had been asked to change its accounting practice for its

The judge said the council had argued that if the subsidy housing revenue account, the were not paid, it would mean separate budget for housing services, to bring it in line with receither an average rise of £230 ommendations from the for every council taxpayer, Chartered Institute of Public Fi- or massive cuts in council

The 1 retary of State's claim, saying the operation of housing revenue accounts came into force in that although ministers bad not wished to pay the subsidy, if the Secretary of State "has not 1990, it was not until 1994/5 that Camden changed its system in used the words necessary to line with the recommendation. achieve his objective, that is unment for which the council ar-

Mr Bundred said yesterday. "We have to fight for every penny for regeneration of our run-down estates. This money has been kept from our 30,000 tenants. It is overdue and very

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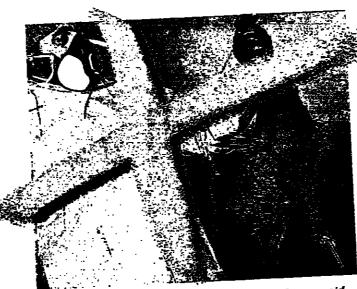
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Britain's defence in jeopardy, say MPs

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

The parlous state of Britain's armed forces was underlined yesterday when MPs warned that any further cuts would threaten the defence of the

The Commons Defence Committee insisted the case for reversing some of the cutbacks made under the Options for Change and Front Line First programmes was "well made". "We insist that the defence spending plans set out in the 1996 Budget must at least be

maintained in real terms in future years," the committee said. And in its report the committee stressed: "Any further reduction would jeopardise the defence of the realm."

Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence. fought a tough battle with the Treasury before last November's Budget. Small cash reductions were offset by lower than expected inflation figures and reduced pensions contributions to produce a level budget.

Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South and a member of the committee, said the report traced "a decline in the defence budget which in reality is considerably worse than the circumstances justify".

The report says that the MoD will spend an estimated £700m more than its £21.4bn budget this financial year. The sell-off of 70,000 service married quarters, which has netted £1.666n for the Treasury has, so far, actually cost the MoD money as it has had to pay £72m rent to the new owners and £11m to refurbish the quarters before

selling them. Nevertheless, the MoD yesterday said the core of its spending remained unchanged, and that overall spending had gone slightly when taken as Report.

from 1995 to 1998. The committee - and Lahour - broadly accepted this, but warned that spending on a large number of high-profile projects including a new frigate, the Eurofighter 2000, a replacement Maritime Patrol Aircraft and the Advanced Anti Armour weapon was due to peak in 2003-2004. and that not enough money would be available.

A future government would either have to make more money available, or some of these very prominent projects would have to be cut.

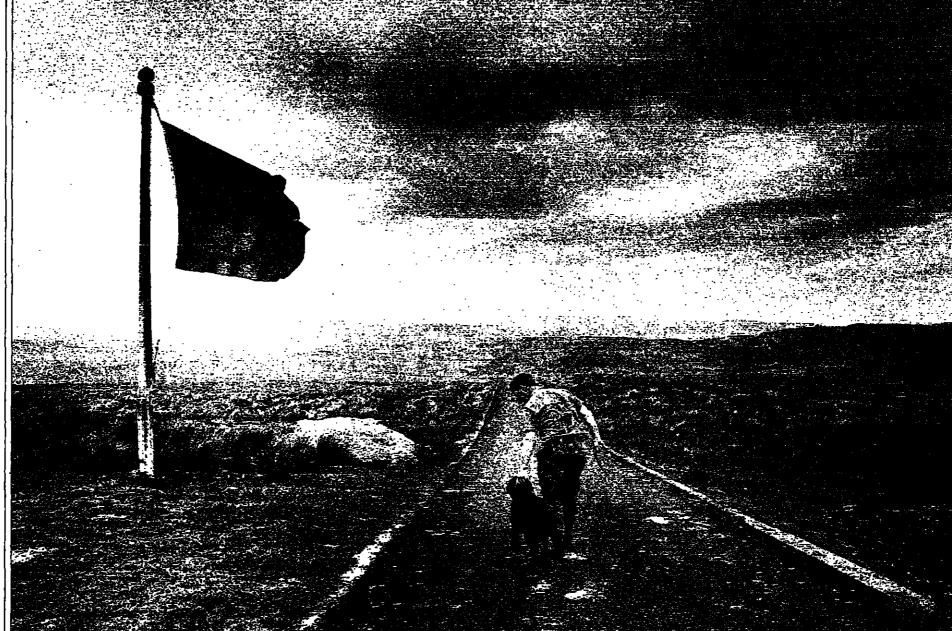
Of the extra £705-710m the MoD must spend this year. only the £11m for refurbishing married quarters prior to selfing them represents any form of spending on new goods and services. Of the remaining extra spending, £316m - £72m rent for the married quarters and £244m for unbudgeted spending on Bosnia - represents ex-tra cash which will have to be recovered from the Treasury.

The MoD yesterday insisted that the remaining £380m, carried over from earlier years, had already been spent on budgeted items and was therefore merely being redistributed within the agreed defence budget.

The report noted there had been "unwanted savings" because of the shortfall in service recruiting, which was expected to save between £96m and £120m over each of the next three years.

erations in Bosnia this year led the committee to say that "either the defence budget include an element for contingencies, such as peacekeeping operations, or the extra cost of such operations should be refunded to the Ministry of Defence as it is in-

Defence Committee, Fourth £63,516bn over the three years HMSO: £10,60.



Under fire: Lt-Col Mike Bradley exercising his dog in the Northumberland National Park, which the Army wants to use more intensively for training

Ground rules set for battle of Otterburi

Heritage Correspondent

The end-game in a bitter dispute over the Army's deployment of its heaviest and most sophisticated artillery pieces in the Northumberland National

The extra £244m spent on op-Park began vesterday with polite verbal fencing at a hearing to establish the ground rules for tull public inquiry. Of all the conflicts in the na-

tional parks, none compares plan for upgrading the Otterburn training area to accommodate

gun and the multi-launch rocket system (MLRS).

The road building, hardstanding for guns and support facilities amount to one of the biggest developments ever pro-posed for a national park. Conservationists regard it as damaging to the wild upland landscape and inimical to the purposes of the park.

But the Army, which has oc-cupied the 58.000-acre training area since 1911, argues that Otwith the battle over the £23m terburn is the only practical option for rehearsing vital "shoot and scoot" techniques. And the 45-ton AS90 self-propelled without the upgrading, their big Ministry of Defence in a state- 23 per cent of the national park was meant to protect.

guns would simply sink in the moorland peat.

Countering claims that more use could be made of computer simulations, the Army will tell the inquiry that training on a live firing range in all weathers, night and day, builds esprit de corps and demonstrates to all ranks that command procedures will work in times of stress.

Lack of confidence, inexperience, distrust of equipment and concern about the ability of others leads to uncertainty, ineffectiveness, unnecessary casualues and defeat, warned the

ment issued at yesterday's preinquiry hearing.

By the time the inquiry itself opens on 22 April, the Army's case will be bolstered by the findings of a review of training areas. Conducted on the insistence of the Commons' Public Accounts Committee, it is expected to conclude that withdrawal from Germany and other overseas exercise grounds has left the Army some 80,000 hectares short of its land needs, so more intensive use will have to be

The Otterburn range covers

made of existing ranges.

park, the least visited and most thinly populated park in Eng-land and Wales. Live firing means that for some 300 days a year the public are barred from even its rights of way.

Opposition to the upgrading plan is led jointly by Northumberland County Council and the national park who regard it as unacceptably damaging to the landscape. Graham Taylor, the park's senior officer, accepts the military presence as "a fact of life", but said that the Army's plans represented a "substantial

Amanda Nobbs, of the watchdog Council for National Parks (CNP), said it was the biggest-ever development proposed in a park and one of the

most damaging.

The inquiry, at a hotel by Newcastle airport, is expected to last at least 12 weeks. It is, however, essentially a struggle between David and Goliath, with the MoD preparing to spend £2.5m on its case, compared with £150,000 by the two public authorities and only a few thousand by the CNP and its conservation tional Park Alliance.

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Navy denies press-ganging cleaning crew The Royal Navy always used to nior Service had leaked the ny was a "very cost-effective" press-gang civilians in time of story yesterday to draw attenmove.

civilian cleaning staff who went to sea with the Navy aboard HMS Newcastle from November to last month were all volunteers. writes Christopher

Senior Naval sources yesterday said that someone in the Se- the Aardvark cleaning compa-

mannower shortage. But the six tion to the Navy's slight shortage of sailors.

Last night the Navy insisted that it was usual for civilian workers to stay on board warships after they had been refitted, and that the use of six civilian cleaning experts from

HMS Newcastle had been refitted at Rosyth dockyard on the Firth of Forth, and when the time came for it put to sea there were not enough sailors. The 4,500-ton Type 42 destroyer, designed to shoot down aircraft, should have a crew of 240.

ers it only had just over 200 when it put to sea for three months of trials.

Denying that the cleaners had been kept on board by mistake, a Navy spokesman said it was normal for computer and engineering contractors to sail with a refitted vessel, to check out new systems, and this time cleaners had been taken too.

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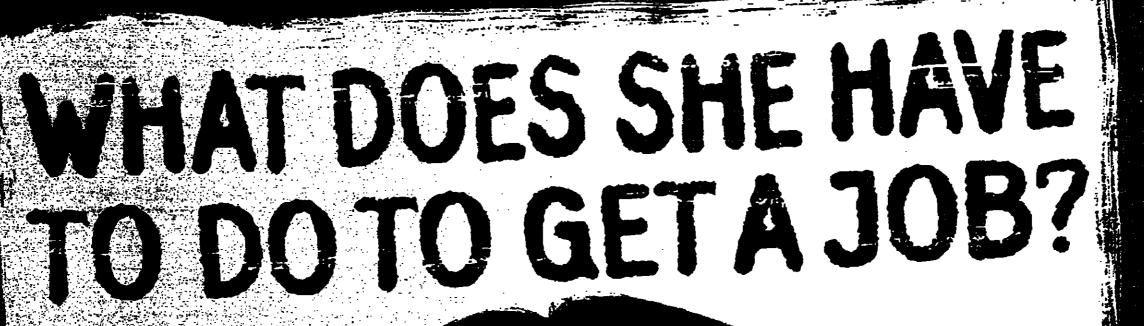
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A powder keg explodes in the heart of Europe

Nobody has any control over the President any more. Some say he has gone crazy; others assert he always was. Rusty old tanks rumble down the rutted country tracks that pass for major roads on a mission to break up anti-gov-ernment roadblocks and intimidate Kalashnikov-toting rebels into giving up their

A media blackout is imposed on the country, radio stations are pulled off the air, a handful of journalists are beaten up, an independent newspaper is firebombed and a favourite café for opposition figures and intellectuals is trashed by unidentified thugs.

The country is crawling with secret policemen, mañosi, security patrols and army units. The shops are besieged and bread is running short. Only trans-shipments of cocaine and heroin continue as normal. Paranoid rumours of internecine power struggles and outside intervention abound. The government is dismissed but does not go away: the army chief of staff is fired and pursued by the courts for sedition; the head of the secret police is put

in charge of running the country.

It's a jungle out there, and ordinary citizens have no choice but to sit at home, knock back alternate cups of coffee and brandy and wait for the craziness to pass. What country could this possibly be? It sounds like the backdrop for a piece of Latin American magic realism, but it isn't. It's happening, right now, and in

the heart of Europe.

For two years, Albania has been a powder keg of corruption, organised crime, political repression and financial con-tricks. Somehow the outside world failed to see the disaster coming and insisted that the country was developing

Andrew Gumbel on the world's folly in ignoring the signs of approaching disaster in Albania

Now the powder keg has exploded, and the fall-out has only begun. Much of Albania's economy has gone belly-up following the collapse of a string of fraudulent pyramid investment schemes linked to organised crime networks that inveigled the entire population. Law and order has collapsed because one half of the police and judiciary has been irre-deemably corrupted, while the rest have been run out of the southern half of the country by furious crowds brandishing automatic weapons looted from police and army depots.

President Sali Berisha, meanwhile, persists in exercising his authority through political repression and brute force. In the chaotic aftermath of Albania's emancipation from communism in 1991-2, the United States was instrumental in promoting the virulently anti-communist Mr Berisha to the position he now commands. These days, the US has become increasingly vocal in its criticisms and Mr Berisha, according to political sources, has branded Washington an enemy along with the many others - foreign journalists, opposition leaders and intellectuals pushed into exile.

The deeper the crisis grows, the more Mr Berisha resembles Albania's old Stalinist dictator, Enver Hoxha, as he turns ruthlessly on colleagues he no longer trusts, blames his problems on conspiracies and promotes himself as

the only true champion of the people.

Although he hates to be reminded of the fact,
Mr Berisha owes many of his deeper political instincts to Hoxha's peculiar brand of Stalinist isolationism. He served as Hoxha's personal heart doctor, giving him privileged access and

influence in the years up to the old man's death in 1985, and served as a Communist Party sec-

retary for more than two decades. He was close to Hoxha's successor, Ramiz Alia, and only joined the anti-communist movement on impulse after Alia had sent him to break up an anti-government demonstra-

tion at Tirana University. Now the students are in ferment again, but this time Mr Berisha is on the other side of the fence. For five years he liked to portray himself as a man of the people, at ease in crowds and charismatic on a speaking podium (an echo, perhaps, of Hoxha's claim to be "knee to knee"

with his fellow Albanians).

As the population has turned against him, however, Mr Berisha has been forced to concoct ever more conspiracy theories, blaming the former Communist secret police, the Socialist opposition, murky terrorist groups and now these supposed "foreign agents".

The state of emergency is a coup in reverse, an attempt to crush the rebellion before it crushes him. The use of force is highly dangerous, not least because of the potential for spill-over into Kosovo, Macedonia and the wider Balkans.

The lawlessness of a Colombia or a Somalia has landed in the middle of our continent. The calamity should have been foreseen, but

Leading article, page 17



A masked man firing into the air in Vlora, where the government has lost all control

Berisha sacks army chief as rebellion continues

Emma Daly Tirana

The state of emergency imposed in Albania two days ago has exacerbated fear in the capital, Tirana, but has done little to quell the anti-government rebellion in the south, where several towns have fallen under

the control of angry citizens.

The army chief of staff, whose troops proved powerless to confront rioters armed with weapons looted from barracks. was vesterday sacked by the president, Sali Berisha, and re-

placed with a trusted presidential adviser.

Tanks were filmed moving towards the towns of Vlora and Gjirokaster but police, who have joined the military effort, stopped foreign journalists from reaching the region, and therefore there are no accounts of

what might have happened. Rebellious civilians in the southern towns of Saranda - who were said by Greek television to be armed with anti-tank weapons - held a rally and announced their intention to set up a parallel city council in oppoBritain's link to regime

In a letter to The Independent Sir Reginald Hibbert, the distinguished diplomat and wartime Special Operations officer, spells out the central role of the Tory politician Lord Amery in forging links between the British establishment and the regime of Sali Berisha in Albania Page 17

sition to their mayor, who is close to Mr Berisha's ruling party. were filmed on one of the patrol boats seized in the capture

A few a triumphant men of Saranda's tiny naval base. A four-year-old girl was said comply with an official demand to have been killed by gunfire in to surrender all weapons

tary airport near the city of Lecce, in Puglia, just across the Adriatic Sea from Albania. The pilot and co-pilot reportedly asked for political asylum. the port of Vlora, bringing the death toll there to 18 since Fri-

Police set numerous roadblocks around Tirana in an attempt to stop the spread of violence that began in January with riots sparked off by the collapse of the ovramid schemes in which many Albanians had invested life savings. The discontent has grown into a mass movement against Mr Berisha

An Albanian military jet and many Albanians fear it landed at Italy's Galatina milimay explode into civil war. The president had already sacked the government and yesterday added a new scapegoat, the army chief of staff.

Soldiers bear direct responsibility for not taking measures to defend the bases from rioters" said a government statement published in the ruling party newspaper, which appeared on Tirana newstands yesterday.

The offices of Gazeta Shqiptare, by contrast, sat silent and empty of equipment, which was removed by staff after the

in theory but in practice it cannot operate. Its staff are now stocking up on food. The superficial calm in the capital hides much anxiety about the future. "Tirana is terrified," a Gazeta supporter said.

offices of an opposition daily pa-

per was torched by secret po-

licemen. The Gazeta, an

independent daily, has not been

published for two days: under

the emergency laws all news re-

ports are supposed to be passed by an official censor and all busi-

nesses must close by 3pm. The paper has not been shut down

London — President Sali Berisha must work with the opposition to resolve his country's crisis, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said yester-day, pledging to discuss international action with its European Union partners, AP writes. Javier Solana, the Nato secretary-general, said the situation in Albania is not one for military intervention by Nato or anyone else. He said Nato's intervention in Bosnia had created expectations that the organisation might intervene in any crisis, which is not the case.

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 23 FEBRUARY

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINT
1	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	762
2	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROYERS	735
3 .	MR ASHILEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	728
4	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER F.C	724
5	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARI,ENSIU	722
5.	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	722
7	MR GARFIED MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	719
8	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	718
9	MR IAN GROUT	SILK CITY	717
10	MR BILT COOPER	YEP MOC 2000	713
10	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	713
12	MR KEITH HORRY	ORGANIC MANURE F.C	712
13	MR JONN COX	SOUTHFILL F.C	711 .
14	MR SEAN BROSNAN	OASIS	710
14	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	710
14	MR J GODWIN	NORYOOD	710
17	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE F.C	709
IB	MR GARY HARROWS	101 STARS	708
19	MR A MORGAN	KICK STAR	70?
20	MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGNTS NAMA HEAD	705
21	MR DARREN NICHOLAS	EDNA	704 .
21	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL STATES	704
21	MR E J HETHERINGTON	BETRIC	704
24	DR HOME	THE FLYING FOXES	703
1 5	MR SCOTT MCINERNEY		702
25	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM .	702
25	MR ANDY LANE	IF ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	702
25	MR ROBERT GREENFIELD	THE GULLS	702
29	MR M GREGGSON	LITTLE-UNS	70 I
30	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	700
31	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	699
31	MR O J JOHNSON	THE AWAY WINNERS	699
33	MR P HEMMINGWAY	WAGON WHEELS	698
33	MR WOODHOUSE	LEE BURNS CHEST	698
33	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	698
36	MR R RENNICK	WILD ROVERS	697
37	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	696
38	DR STEVE GILL	MORE POINTS THAN SOTON	695
39	MR ANDY SWANNEY	DOG S BRICK	494
40	MR D R KENNEDY	HAMMERS LITD	693
41	MR R PRINCE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	692
 41	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	692
41 41	MR P CURRAN	WASH I'UF ARRIT	692
41 44	MR TIMOTHY MARRIOT		
			69
44	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS .	631

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ATHLETICO ARMCHAIR

THE ELITE OF THE SLITE

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MRLAN COOPER

MR IVAN HOOD

MR DAVID MAHER

MR KRISTOV BAERWALD

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day. The government claimed

vesterday that four others in the

town were "executed by terror-

ists" on Monday as they tried to

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 29 (Wk 29) column lists all points scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 24 February - Sunday 2 March inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 2 March.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fan-

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal = 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = 1 point when a player is selected and plays = 1 point for a wirming goal = 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3

tasy Football managers and their teams for matches on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 23 Feb- be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

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TEAM MARKET AND OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 2 MARCH; WEEK 29 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 24 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH

Ruddock
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Scales
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Pearson
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Albert
Howey
Peneock
Barton
Beresford
Corper
Cheille
Jerkan
Jottle
Pearce
Monley
Dodd
Benali
Charlien
Nolan
Atherton
Walker
Sucianova
Metville
Kabildi
Ball
Campbell
Calderwoo
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Van Der La
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international

Battle of Gorleben sounds the death-knell for Continent's dreams of a fission-fuelled future



Atom convoy diverted as German Swampys tunnel under road

who can be despatched to trouble-spots at short notice.

the railway terminal of Dan-

nenberg, the emphasis is on pas-

sive resistance. At the other

extreme, hooded youths dressed in black lurk, biding

their time. These veterans of

public disorder, present at every

demonstration whatever the

cause, will be throwing the

stones and Molotov cocktails if

Gusborn is about one third

trouble flares today.

At the Splietau Camp near

Imre Karacs Gorleben

A watch-tower with reflector lights guards over Camp Gusborn on the front line separating nuclear power from the people. A sign reminds inmates of an alcohol ban, and instructs them to keep dogs on a lead.

You might think this canvas Colditz was the creation of the "nuclear state", synonymous in Gorleben mythology with the "police state". In reality, Camp Gusborn's tents provide temporary shelter for 1,200 autonomists, anarchists and dropouts, unsure of their ideology, who set the rules themselves.

judging by the empty beer hottles and the vacant expressions on the faces of some res-

drugs is flexible. But in all other respects the tenants are a faithful reflection of German society, straining to maintain a semblance of order even on the brink of anarchy.

They sort their rubbish tucking it away neatly in bags of different colours - and in the evenings endeavour to keep the noise down. These are Swampy's German cousins militant environmentalists who have been digging trenches under a road in an effort to stop nuclear waste reaching its "medium-term" destination.

Ever vigilant of the "police state", they have no names, and cover up the number-plates on their cars. Most of them are young with exotic but clean hairdos, sporting aggressive badges idents, the ban on alcohol and and a disarmingly mild manner.

"I came here from Bremen because I'm against nuclear power." says a 17-year-old girl. She does not know who runs the camp, has not the faintest idea where the food that is served up to her comes from, and questions about political parties draw a blank. She is here to force the "castors" - the nuclear waste

A 22-year-old man from Berlin is here "because of the nuclear shit," and also "because this is a great place to meet people". He is unemployed, but couldn't care less about that, or politics or anything else other than nuclear power. Asked to comment on the government's policies, he politely declines.

containers - to turn back.

of the way along the road link-There are about ten camps nestling among the forests, all ing Dannenberg, where the nu-

with slightly different tasks and clear waste was loaded on to inhabitants. Near the nuclear trucks yesterday morning, and site at Gorleben are lesbians who will only participate in single-sex protests. Their neigh-

The Gusborn residents were bours are the protesters' crack troops, the "Dykes on Bikes", asked by organisers to make the road impassable and by yesterday morning had completed the task.

"The road is kaput," said a picket bursting with pride, and he was not exaggerating. For a distance of about half a mile, tunnels had been dug under the tarmac at 30 yard intervals, turning a solid highway into a series of flimsy pontoon bridges.

The excavated earth is heaped on top of the asphalt, the clumpy barricades reinforced at intervals with bits of concrete and the gaps filled with bales of straw which can be lit as the convoy approaches.

The 100-tonne lorries will not come this way, however, thanks to Camp Gusborn. The tent dwellers, their jobs well done, were loafing about yesterday awaiting new instructions.

With their road out of action, the attention of police and pro-testers alike switched to one of the few alternative routes, a mile north of Gusborn, Here, along the so-called Quickborn route. a thousand activists tried to seize the road yesterday afternoon, but were driven back at every

Last night, convoys of police vans, prison lorries and water cannon were racing towards Dannenberg as the final battle loomed. The trucks carrying the nuclear waste are less than 20 miles from Gorleben, but their journey will not be simple.

Europe dims the lights on nuclear power

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

Nuclear power may well be gone from the European Union within the next 30 years. Across the 15 member states, this controversial energy source is now nearly a decade into a gradual but apparently terminal decline. Only the French are still building new atomic power stations. But even France has a

struction starts until 2000, No other nation has any realistic, government-endorsed plans for new reactors. The main reasons for the rejection are the expense compared with other forms of electricity generation (mainly coal, oil and gas) and public fears about safety.

moratorium on any fresh con-

In nearly 40 years of civil nuclear power in Western Europe. there has been not been a single disaster. The only serious accident happened in Windscale. Cumbria in 1957, when a military reactor used to make plutonium for Britain's nuclear weapons caught fire. And yet there are still fundamental, unanswered questions about how to deal with nuclear power's radioactive wastes, which remain lethal for tens of thousands of years.

"I can't conceive of the circumstances for any new orders," said Steve Thomas, an energy researcher at Sussex University's Science Policy Research Unit. "The technology is now 20 years old and the regufators will want something a lot better. And who would pay?"

More than one-quarter of Europe's electricity comes from nuclear plants - three-quarters in the case of France. It therefore cannot be shut overnight. Across the continent, operstors are seeking to keep their ageing reactors going for as long as safety regulators and governments allow them - 25, 30, maybe 40 or more years - in or-der to recoup the massive build-

ing investment and delay the

high costs of decommissioning.

voted to abandon nuclear pow-

In a 1980 referendum, Sweden

er. The plan was to close the first of the 12 plants in 1985 and the last by 2005. But so far not one has shut and the date of final clo-

sure has been put back to 2010. France has 57 functioning nuclear power stations; it has a surfeit of electricity and nucleargenerated power is one of its larger exports. Next comes Germany with 19 operational stations, producing some 30 per cent of its electricity. The last order for a new plant was made 15 years ago, and three plants have

In a European nuclear in-dustry dominated by stateowned utilities, the United Kingdom is unusual. Most of its 14 plants have now been sold to the private sector, along with the rest of the electricity industry. and private industry sees no way of building economically viable new reactors.

Italy's three nuclear power stations were killed off after a 1987 referendum came down

€ No nation but France has any realistic plans for new reactors 9

against atomic energy. Spain abandoned construction of four plants in 1984, but it still has nine operating plants providing one-third of the country's electricity, and one which has closed. Austria only ever built one station, and that never went into operation because of a referendum rejection.

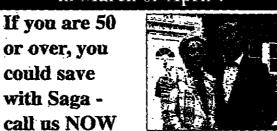
Belgium has seven plants and gets about half of its electricity from nuclear power while Finland, with four plants, is 30 per cent fission-powered. The Netherlands has two small plants operating. None of Portugal, Ireland, Greece. Denmark, and Luxemburg ever

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Peasants pay with their lives in secret war against Zapatistas

Assassinations. kidnappings and torture are turning Chiapas into a powder keg, writes **Phil Davison** in San Cristobal de las Casas

With Mexico's Zapatista guerrillas trapped in the Lacandon jungle, the Mexican government and army is waging a "secret, low-intensity war against suspected Zapatista supporters. mainly poverty-stricken Indian

peasants. Human rights officials say paramilitary groups, armed and backed by the military and police, have assassinated an average five peasants a day over the last few months in the southeastern state of Chiapas, where the Zapatista rebels rose up in 1994 and have widespread support.

Peasants have also been thrown off their land, detained and tortured if they are suspected of even sympathising with the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), the

The incidents have turned Chiapas, particularly the north-em part of the state, into a powder keg. Locals talk of the potential for civil conflict in the run-up to nationwide legislative elections in July. Communities are split between support for Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of President Emesto Zedillo and the centre-left Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). which backs the social aims of the Zapatista rebels.

The presence of tens of thousands of troops in the state has added to the tension.

In the community of Agua Blanca, troops and police recently arrived by helicopter to harass women working in coffee plantations, according to one evewitness. The security forces. known to locals as the BOM (anacronym for Joint Operation Force), said they were looking for weapons. When they found none, they forced the women to rifles, the witness said.



It was not clear whether the BOM detained any of the women or were simply threatening them with future arrest if they had anything to do with the

Zapatistas. The frontline war lasted only 12 days with the Zapatista uprising of January 1994," said Pablo Romo of the Fray Bartolome Centre, a leading independent human rights group which defends Chiapas's native Mayan Indians, "Now, it is a secret war of low intensity, a psychological war. There have

EZLN sympathisers, human rights groups in San Christobal

rights groups or social workers." At least 16 firebombs or molotov cocktails have been thrown at the offices of human

over the past five weeks. A leading human rights activist. Javier Lopez Montoya, was kidnapped with his wife and children last November and has not been A colleague of Mr Romo at

the Fray Bartolome Centre. Jose Montero, was wounded in the arm when gunmen in civilian clothes opened fire on his

he saw uniformed police with the gurmen.

Mr Lomo and Mr Montero say they are in no doubt that the gunmen belonged to the socalled Paz y Justicia (Peace and Justice) group which they describe as paramilitary. The eroup is made up of hardline PRI supporters, led by the party's legislator in Chiapas, samuel Sanchez, and reportedly armed and backed by the army

Ex-members of Peace and Justice were quoted here this shootings aimed at suspected car last month. Mr Montero said given military training and were been seen for weeks, his image Zapatistas.

Zapatistas".

Peace talks between the Mexican government and the EZLN have been stalled since last September. The guerrilla leader, Subcomandante Marcos, known for his black balaclava and pipe, remains in hiding in the Lacandon jungle east of here with several hundred men. His supporters believe he is planning a new operation, more likely to be a propaganda coup than a mili-

Gardner

is everywhere in San Cristobal You can buy a Marcos T-shirt for £4, a Marcos balaciava for £1, a Marcos-doll key ring for

40p or a Marcos clock for £5. And on the edge of the jungle, his men still rule the roost although they are blocked by the army from moving west. One of Marcos's top aides, Comandante Tacho, organised a culture show in rebel-controlled territory this week which featured US folk-rock group The Indigo Girls and a group of American Indians who performed a fire

Deng 'regretted' attack on Tiananmen protesters

Deng Xiaoping bitterly regretted the brutal crushing of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tianannen Square in 1989, according to Chinese sources quoted yesterday by the

Japanese Kyodo news agency.

The late Chinese leader, who was head of the Central

Military Commission on the day troops opened fire on
unarmed protesters, 4 June 1989, was quoted as saying that
the action was "the most regrettable event" of his life. According to Kyodo's unnamed Chinese sources, Deng said he had been forced into a harsh response to the

"We couldn't help at the time but take the most active response," Deng is alleged to have said. Agancies - Tokyo

Brain destruction' by junta

Ethiopia's former Marxist rulers made a deliberate effort to destroy educated people in the country, a witness said in a genocide trial. The witness was testifying at the trial of 71 former Ethiopian Marxist officials secused of genocide and crimes against humanity. All 71 could be sentenced to death if found guilty. "I am of the opinion that killings undertaken by the Dergue, the military junta in Ethiopia, were aimed at a brain destruction," the witness, a former educator who cannot be named under court rules, told the

Cambodia murder arrests

Three members of Cambodia's largest opposition party have been arrested in the murder of Second Premier Hum Sen's brother-in-law. The arrests could raise tensions between Hun Sen's formerly communist Cambodian. People's Party and its most vocal critic, the Khmer Nation Party, a key member of a political alliance challenging the CPP in elections next year.

AP - Pinom Pani

Bullfight fiestas go anead

Eager to avoid cancelling two of Spain's most famous bullfighting festivals, the industry's main federation agreed yesterday to end a two-day old strike that had put the country's "national fiesta" on hold.

in North

1.13

Contract Food and Marie

The federation's decision means bullfight fans will be able to enjoy the rest of this week's Magdalena Festival in Castellon and the Las Fallas festival in Valencia, which begins on Friday. The festivals are the first major events of Spain's builtighting season.

AP - Madric

Nigerians charged with sedition

Eight lecturers at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, have been charged with sedition and arson and face possible life sentences if convicted, the independent Vanguard

The eight, including a professor, were among 18 people detained last month after student riots. Reuters - Lagos

Women wear the trousers again

The Brazilian Senate has lifted a 17-year ban on women wearing slacks in the legislative chamber. The spokesman said the upper house's new president, Senator Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, who took over at the start of the legislative year in mid-February, had ended the trouser prohibition because it "no longer made any sense".

"Trousers were banned for women in the Senate in 1980 and they were required to wear dresses and skirts. It's not quite clear why," he said.

Civilians emerge after army's rape of Kindu

Matthew Tostevin

Kindu. Zaire - Hundreds of people emerged from forest hideouts around the looted eastern Zairean town of Kindu yesterday, days after Zairean soldiers retreated and rebels

captured it. Kindu, most of which is on the western bank of the broad, rust-red Zaire river, was looted by retreating soldiers last week and next by civilians who stole anything left, residents told journalists who were flown in by the rebels aboard a DC-3.

Hundreds of people with belongings piled on their heads came out of forest hideouts and trekked past the airport and into town, saying they fled looting as

There were no visible signs of battle at the airport and much of the town was scarred more by looting than by bullets.

took was a carton of mineral water," said Joseph Baroani in Kindu, which residents said crossed the river in boats on Saturday night.

They said that after Zairean troops left, along with five white mercenaries, including two who spoke French. Kindu was defended by a 177-strong contin-gent of former Rwandan Hutu oldiers.

Everyone joined in All I was captured by rebels who

One of the mercenaries had been shot in the leg, they said. Pascal Mwimba, head of the Zaire Red Cross in Kindu, said 11 former Rwandan troops were killed in fighting for the

killed when a mortar bomb hit their home.

Mr Mwimba said the town was short of food and drugs.

Everything was looted. In the hospital we don't have any drugs or equipment, not even aspirin." he told reporters.

About a quarter of the stalls in the main market were open and cheering women showered visiting journalists with rice, saving they were pleased that the fighting was over. As you can see, there is no

and only now are they coming

doubt that Kindu has been liberated." Jacques Lukumani, the new rebel information commissioner in Kindu, told reporters at the town's airport. Two-thirds of the people who fled are still in the forest,

town and three children were out. Most of my family is still there," said student Muinvi Soumaili as she walked back

Rebel officers said they captured most of Kindu on Sunday and Zairean troops scattered into the forest and headed west. Kindu is 200 miles west of the

border with Rwanda and 250 miles south of Kisangani, the capital of north-eastern Zaire and centre for army operations in the region. What the Zaircan soldiers

did was terrible. We are very happy to have been liberated. said Masengo Masongo, a resident of Kindu.

The rebels said on Friday that they had seized part of the town but the claim was denied by the Defence Ministry in

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"We take care of people." That's why our alliances succeed"

Salvage team set fair to identify Blackbeard's ship

Rupert Cornwell Washington

There is almost certainly no pirate's treasure - no pieces of eight nor gold doubloons - to be found in the 18th-century wreck just off the North Carolina coast, but that does not SUOD American marine archaeologists from calling the longlost ship the most important discovery of its kind in 20 years.

And small wonder. The vessel, they believe, is what remains of the Queen Anne's Revenge, the flagship of the notorious pirate Blackbeard, which foundered on a sandbar at the entrance of Beaufort Inlet har-

bour in June 1718. "We haven't absolutely iden-tified it." said Jeffrey Crow. Department of Cultural resources, which oversaw the project. "but all indications are that this is the Queen Anne's



minimal visibility, is a foot-tall the head of North Carolina's brass bell bearing the date Daniels, one of the divers, said. Department of Cultural re- 1709, the barrel of a cannon, a The find is the climax of a lead sounding-weight and a blunderbuss, the short-barrelled muzzle-loading tirearm

Among those indications. "The artefacts are in good on a small piece of wood stick-retrieved by divers working in shape, and there's a pile of ing up from the sand, perhaps

cannon still down there." Mike The find is the climax of a decade's search at a site first suggested by a map in a 1719

book recounting a pirate trial. Finally, the archaeologists hit

exposed by last autumn's hurricanes in the region. All being well, much more of the vessel is still intact under a protective layer of sand. However, according to his-

torical documents, the pirate took the treasure from the wreck before he left for shore. Blackbeard, whose real name was Edward Teach, is legendary for his swagger and for his gargantuan appetites, but

above all for his cruelty and brutality. Between 1716 and 1718 he terrorised the Caribbean and the coasts of the Carolinas - until the Queen Anne's Revenge ran aground as it returned from a week's blockade of Charleston, 250 miles to the

The pirate would only outlive his ship by five months. On 22 November 1718 he was killed by English troops in a battle at Okracoke in the North Carolina barrier islands, and his head displayed from the ing up from the sand, perhaps bowsprit of a ship.

مكذا من الأصل

internationa

China's Muslims sharpen knives against Peking

Nicola Beckley

So ahear

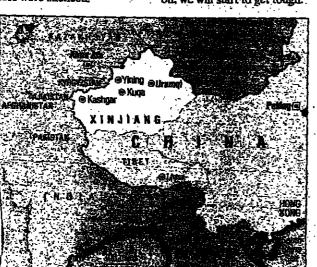
The bombs in the western Chinese province of Xinjiang in recent weeks, have hit the world headlines. But the violence and tensions - including the latest blast, reported yesterday - are nothing new in this volatile region.
During the Islamic festival of

Korban last April, when each household sacrifices a sheep, a place, which remained unreported. Nine regional separatists surrounded the country home of a local Uighur leader in the town of Kugar. They threw a grenade through the window before storming the house. Finding the man inside with his wife, his younger brother and brother's wife, they cut out the tongues of all four and slit their throats. Thus the traitors were silenced.

The leader was accused of "letting down the Uighar people and failing to properly represent them". In other words, he was judged to be a tool of the Chinese government.

The army was at the scene almost immediately. Finding themselves surrounded, the nine men blew themselves up with grenades.

In the wake of the killings, ofbloody and dramatic event took ficial documents urgently recommended that the new railway planned to link Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, to Kashgai in the Uighur heartland of the south be completed within the next three years. Large numbers of Han Chinese - the dominant, "mainstream" Chinese - were to be moved into the area to stabilise unrest. The document warned: "So far we have been too soft on the locals. From now on, we will start to get tough."





Culture clash: An elderly Lighur man hobbling past a statue of Chairman Mao in Kashgar, to which Han Chinese head in their thousands

Nationalists say they planted bus bombs

Yuri Kushko, Reuter

why he didn't "go off and get on

his donkey cart?" The Uighur

replied that he would love to.

1980s, culminating in last month's riots in Yining when Uighur youths took to the Almaty — Muslim Uighur nationalists claimed responsibility yesterday for a se-ries of bus bombings last week in northstreets beating up Han Chinese and burning their bodies. Young Uighurs grow up with a keen hawestern China and for a similar, tred for the steadily increasing previously unreported attack on Monday. numbers of Chinese migrants. A Chinese government official in the

restive region of Xinjiang denied there had been a new blast on Monday, however. A spokesman for Uighur exiles suggested last week that the A spokesman for Uighur exiles said in Almaty, capital of neighbouring Kazadeath of Deng Xiaoping will bring a power struggle within the Chinese élite. He predicted: "If khstan, said the acts were in reprisal for that happens, the independence deaths and arrests during a Chinese clampdown on the separatist movement movement in Turkestan will intensify." The Turkic-speaking over the past month. Uighur nationalisis want to es-"We intend to continue our struggle,"

Turkestan" homeland. Hundreds, sometimes thousands of Han Chinese arrive daily at Urumqi railway station laden with their life's belongings. Tensions erupt easily. An only be couldn't as the Hans had Uighur man who accidentally eaten all their donkeys. The apjostled a Chinese on a bus was parently humorous exchange

tablish an independent "East

The disturbance is just one of a growing number of outbursts

violence since the early

Mukhiddin Mukhlisi added, saying three exile groups had joined forces after po-lice and army killed 127 Uighurs and arrested hundreds more.

An official in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang province, said at the weekend that seven people had died and 60 were hurt in three -bomb explosions on buses in the city on 24 February, coinciding with funeral rites for Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. Mr Mukhlisi sald he did not know how

many victims there were in the latest attack on Monday on a bus travelling to Urumqi from Yining, near the Kazakh border. The blast occurred 120km (75 miles) east of Yining, he said.

"The explosion in the bus near the town

of Kuldji (Yining) ... was our act of revenge for the crimes of the Chinese authorities," Mr Mukhlisi said.

However, a government official in Yining said by telephone: "It's peaceful here. There was no new bomb attack." A spokesman for Uighur exiles in Russia, Sargari Tarym, said last week in Moscow: "We think Deng's death will

bring a power struggle within the Chinese

élite. If that happens, the independence

ovement in Turkestan will intensify." Mr Mukhlisi said Peking had launched a "hundred days anti-separatist cam-paign" against Uighur nationalists who want to establish an independent "East Turkestan" homeland.

considered Uighurs."

residential areas, but it is rarely

the Uighurs who get to live

there. Job discrimination is rou-

tine: when an Urumqi academ-

While Chinese-imposed burn

control remains a bone of con-

tention for rebels in the strongly

ethnic opposition among intellectuals in the modernising north of Xinjiang. So who will be the champions of the cause for Uighuristan, the long-awaited homeland of the oncenomadic Muslim Uighurs?

The older generation are too scared of the repercussions and of a return to worsened poverty and famine. They still bear the scars of Mao Tse-tung's Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. They shrink from the anger growing in their chil-dren and look on anxiously. In the words of one Uighur: "Young people are unable to look ahead. We older ones can see things in the long term. we re not so impetuous."

it remains to be seen whether the younger ones can overcome traditional disagreements between oasis towns, and between north and south. A migrant worker from Aksu living in Unumqi be-lieves they can: When it comes to the crucial hour, Uighurs will come together."

Meanwhile, long lines of Uni nese army trucks rumble regularly along country roads often hired by government in- Islamic south, social inequality between Aksu and Baicheng "Of things that fly, the only thing centives of housing and jobs. and discrimination in the labour deep in the south. In Xinjiang, they don't eat is aeroplanes. Of The Chinese are building new market is the main catalyst of nobody forgets who is in charge. deep in the south. In Xinjiang,

An Alliance of Achievement

Contract Food and Management Services - Remote Site Management - Service Vouchers - Leisure Services

Highlights of Chairman Pierre Bellou's message to the Annual Meeting of Sodexho Shareholders on February 25, 1997.

I - IN FISCAL 1995/96, SODERHO MAINTAINED GROWTH IN SALES. REPORTED GOOD EARNINGS AND EXCEEDED ORIECTIVES

LOB LUC IDAC	20.00	
	At Aug. 31, 1996	% Grows
Consolidated sales (in millions of French transs)	24,961	. 36 % ⁴⁴
Operating income fin millions of French frants)	1,124	20 4°≈
Consolidated net income less minority interests (in millions of French francs)	685°	
Number of shares in issue	7,371,190	5%
Eurnings per share (in French francs)	20.20	129 %
Number of units	13.512**	
Employees .	141,118/4	

(1) Of which 24 percent due to the consolidation of Gardner Membars over 12 mounts (2) Of which 23 percent due to the consolidation of Gardner Merchant over 12 months (3) Of which FRF 284 million in con-recurring items (4) including Perters, accounted for by the equity method.

N - OUTLOOK

13

5

D

For 1996/97, I indicated at the last Board meeting that, based on currently available data and assuming constant exchange rates, consolidated net income before exceptional items less misority interest should reach FBF 500,000,000. This would represent growth of 25 percent, with earnings per share galating 23 percent. Today, I can continut this forecast.

Looking out to the mediann-terns, prospects are favorable for all of our businesses. Remote Site Management services, including those provided in French overseas departments and possessions, should account for around seven percent of consolidated operating income in 1996/97.

Service Vouchers have taken an increasingly important role in our earnings stream in recent years. In 1996/97, the besiness will contribute around 15 percent of consolidated operating income. Leisure Services include river cruises and catering for some of the world's most

prestigious events. The river chaises business is expected to contribute three percent of consolidated operating income in 1996/97. Peniteetiary institutions are managed primarily in the United States, but also in France and Australia. Excluding CCA, which is not consolidated, this business should represent around one percent of consolidated 1996/97 operating income. Food and Management Services are our largest business, which will account for around 90 percent of 1996/97 sales and 74 percent of operating income for the period. Our objective is to strengthen our position as global market leader.

BI - PATHS TO PROGRESS All our businesses enjoy strong potential for expansion, but to transform this potential reto actual growth in sales and eminings, we are pursuing the paths to progress defined

100E YESS 330-Continuously improve client satisfaction timough a commitment to quality

 Develop our boncer capital, by : Encouracing the emergence of entrepreneurs among our employees. - Focusing sharply on bising, training and motivating our unit managers. Enabling employees to share in the Group's financial performance. Strengthen managerial efficiency, by: Enhancing and deepening strategic thinking Using our size to lower the cost of purchased goods and services.

Developing integrated management information systems. IV - OUR GROWTH PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy

Our corporate mission is clear; to satisfy our clients, to meet the expectations of our employees and shareholders, and to participate in the economic and social development of our host countries. Organic growth

To carry out this mission, we are committed to increasing our sales and earnings, because growth provides for greater job security, allows us to promote from within and creates more shareholder value. Our primary strategic focus is on internal growth, but in recent years we have supported this development with external tions and alliances.

 External growth (alliances and acquisitions) Our international alliances

On February 1, 1995, the alliance with Gardner Merchant made us the world's largest contract food services group. On January 2, 1996, the alliance with Partena, Sweden's leading management services company, strengthened our position in the Nortic constries. In February 1996, we acquired an equity interest in Cardapin, Brazal's third largest service voucher issue; which we now manage. This gave us access to what is today the largest voucher market in the world. Our affiance philosophy

Soderho operates in service activities which, while not very capital intensive, are highly people-intensive. Indeed, our growth is driven almost entirely by the skills and dedication of individual men and women. While it is possible to purchase factories, machines, processes and technology, you cannot buy the commitment, hearts and minds of a company's people.

This is why the experience gained by the Group in its external growth over the past five years has takinght us to respect the history, culture and personalities of the individuals that join our corporate community. It is this philosophy that has quided our recent alliances and that will continue to guide as in the alliances to come. To symbolize the reality and success of our international alliances, we have changed the name of the Sodenho SA holding company to Sodenho Alliance. As part of the changeover, we have also designed a new logo with five stars, representing our presence on the five main continents and the superior quality service provided by Societac's 141,000 employees around the world.

A - DIABOERD

The dividend for 1995/96 has been set at FRF 26.00 per share, net of tex credit, representing income of FRF 39.00 per share including tex credit. It will be paid as of March 5, 1997. Total payout amounts to FRF 192 millions, a 24 percent increase from 1994/95. It corresponds to 48 percent of the consolidated net income before non-requiring idents less minority interests reported for the year.

Our independence, our global reach, the quality of our teams, and our excellent financial position all provide us valls important competitive advantages. The Group's outlook is favorable and in the years to come, we foresee good growth in sales and earnings, as well as a steady increase in earnings per share.



For further information, please contact: Raphael DUBRULE - Corporate Secretary Phone; +33 1 30 85.74 74 - Fex: +33 1 30 85 50 95 - Internet : http://www.sodesho.com

Korean enemies gather for talks

who fail to share their passions ic fluent in Chinese approached for music, dance and hedonism.

As the social structure services, he was told: "We hadn't

Andrew Marshall Seoul

told he was "filthy" and asked thinly veiled the cultural clashes

New efforts begin today to end one of the Cold War's last remaining confrontations - the division of the Korean peninsula. New York will be the venue

and inequalities in the new

society geared exclusively towards Hans. Not only is the

Han Chinese love of pork con-sidered "unclean" by Muslim

Uighurs, but the Chinese ten-

dency to kill and eat anything

Uighurs are frequently known

to quote the Hans' own saying

when expressing their disgust:

it moves is also abhorred.

for a meeting intended to kick off a series of four-party talks between North and South Korea, China and the United States. Today, South Korea and the US will detail their plans for the gatherings at a "briefing" meeting with North Korea. It has been difficult enough to get

a team of North Korean officials has already arrived, as has the team from Seoul, and the expectation is that the meeting will

things with four legs, the only thing they don't eat is tables."

The Uighurs regard the Han

Chinese as introverted people

changes, opportunities have be-

Uighurs. Every day, hundreds of

Han migrants arrive in Xinjiang.

come iew and far between for

take place as planned. The encounter comes at a time of maximum instability in North Korea. The death or departure from office of a number of key figures in the regime seems to indicate a power struggle as Kim Jone II, son of longtime dictator Kim Il Sung. seeks to underpin his authority.

A senior defector from

China said yesterday that it hoped the crisis could be resolved soon, and expectations are still high in Seoul that he will arrive in the next seven days. The defection has sparked a war of words between Seoul and

North demanding that he be re-

turned to Pyongyang and the

South that he be allowed to go

to Seoul, as he has requested.

Pyongyang, with the South claiming that the death of Kim Il Sung resulted from a heart at-

Pyongyang to attend this meet- Pyongyang, Hwang Jan-yop, is tack after a violent row with his ing - it has cancelled twice; but boled up in the South Korean son. The North has riposted anembassy in Peking, with the grily claiming that Seoul is acting provocatively.

There is clearly some ner-

vousness in Seoul about the military situation, with security at government buildings increased and a security exercise underway yesterday. The North's economy is collapsing, with food due to run out in the spring and international food aid insufficient to fill the gap. China is reported by the South Korean media to have established shelters for flecing North Koreans.

White ghosts fade as society. takes on a new complexion

The pony-tailed Briton, his T-shirt wet with alcohol, stumbled down the steps of Joe Bananas nightchib, close to the red-light district of Wan Chai, laughed and then stooped low and threw up noisily into the kerb.

The taxi driver nodded at him and sniffed. "Mah fahn-a (trouble)," he said, dismissively. "To think that 40 years ago they were beating us with sticks." It is safe to say that Britain's place in Hong Kong high soci-

ety is not what it was. Britons may be pouring into the colony to witness the setting of the sun on the last bastion of their empire, but as far as the social scene is concerned, the real handover has already happened. Whereas 20 years ago Hong

Kong's finest events were likely to be studded with the merchant princes of Jardines and Swires, the two great British bongs, Hong Kong Tatler laid today's situation bare with its 1997 "Guide to the Social Season".

Of its "500 most prominent people", white faces make up a little over 10 per cent, and only a handful are British. According to Ong Chin Huat, social editor of the magazine, the change has been swift. "I've been at Hong Kong Tatler for five years and I

8 **63** 7 7

was the first Chinese to be hired eyehrows. "You mustn't forget in the editorial department. The pictures then were 80 per cent expats and 20 per cent ... Chinese," he said. "When I arrived I was given a mandate to change

HOMG KONG DAYS

the list, subsequently shot up.
"We change the top 500 every year because Hong Kong society is very dynamic, but the basic makeup has changed a great deal. Take charity balls, which are the bedrock of high society. Whereas, before, the fundraising committee would be made up of expat women, now it's local Chinese."

it, to bring in more Chinese

faces," Circulation, said Mr

Ong, who is himself featured in

The Operation Concern gala in point. Held at the Grand Hyatt ballroom, with a modest 35 tables, its organising com-mittee comprised a Chiu, a Chow, a Lee, a Ma and a Yang. The evening raised around HK\$3.3m (£270,000).

In Hong Kong's new society such amounts do not raise any 140,000 voices".

that if you compare it with England, Hong Kong is not a welfare state. There's no NHS. no unemployment benefit, so elderly or handicapped people are in need. So that's why so much money gets raised," Mr Ong said, adding: "It's also because of Hong Kong taxes. Giving to charity is tax-deductable."

To be pictured in Hong Kong Tatler at such events is a marker of one's position. "Hong Kong Tatler is very high society, like English Tatler ... We only feature the top, top people."

In fact. Hong Kong Tatler was a little too like the English Tatler - a fact that elicited a law suit and a subsequent out-ofdinner last September is a case court settlement. Even this has proved formitous. Now, instead of Tatler's distinctive British "spy" figure. Hong Kong Toder's logo features a man in Man-Kwok, a Chan, a Cheng, a darin robes - perhaps more politically correct in these times. in which, as legislator Christine Loh noted this week, "a sneeze from China matters more than

Perhaps tellingly, a large proportion of HK Tutler's 500 are said to have interests in, or

"good relations with" China.
The movers and shakers are people like Li Ka Shing (the head of the Cheung Kong-Hutchison group and secondrichest man in the territory), or the Knok family towners of the Shangri-la hotels and the South China Morning Post). "They are the big, big money," said Mr Ong. And in Hong Kong, money is the bottom line.

One regular on the social scene. Sophic Benge, said that these days gweilos. (white ghosts) are "very much in the minority" at many social events. But many events are held by consumer brands and the Chinese are who they are marketing to." she said. She cites the example of a recent event held jointly by Hermes, the Paris-based fashion house, and John Lobb, the London shoemakers, together with

entrepreneur David Tang. There were only Chinese people there," she said. "You're much more likely to see Britons down at Joe Bananas now. They've come to work at the [new] airport."

Jojo Moyes

€B

Kenneth Rowntree

Collectors of the King Penguin books, begun during the Second World War under the editorship and interiors in Bedfordshire, of Nikolaus Pevsner, may remember with gratitude and delight no 43 in the series, A Prospect of Wales. Published in 1948, it contained a text by Gwyn Jones, and reproductions of some 20 watercolours and a cover by Kenneth Rowntree. The illustrations show Rowntree at his best: taut, economical, with a feeling for the geometry in landscape, whether innate or imposed.

Rowntree's Wales is a hard-edged world of slate and stone. of country chapels, miners' cottages, abandoned lead works, hill farms, remote schools and drystone walls. His eye for the or-dinary and overlooked is as sharp as it is for the less familiar. Lettering, incised on tombstones or colourfully inscribed on shop froms, is lovingly recreated: traffic signs, telegraph poles and other man-made structures become equally arresting elements in the composition.

Rowntree's gift for evoking a particular place had been fully exploited between 1940 and 1943 when he was one of more than 60 artists commissioned by the Government and financed by the Pilgrim Trust to record the face of England and Wales be-fore development or wartime destruction changed it beyond recognition. "Recording Britain", as this remarkable project came to be known, covered a total of 36 counties. Rowntree con-

Essex. Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Wales. (He was born in Yorkshire and lived from 1942 to 1949 in Essex—at Great Bardfield, where Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious had shared a house in the Thirties and where Bawden continued to live until long after the war.) A recent exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, which assumed responsibility for the 1500 or so watercolours in the "Recording Britain" project, revealed that Rowntree's choice of quirky subject matter and keen sense of design made him

the ideal interpreter of some of

the more unusual aspects of our

built heritage.

After the war, Rowntree's topographical interests led him to collaborate with Clough and Amabel Williams Ellis on their "Vision of England" series, illustrating the volumes dealing with Norfolk and the Isle of Wight and designing the cover for Sussex (which had illustrations by his friend and Essex neighbour Michael Rothenstein). In 1951 Rowntree painted murals for the Lion and Unicorn Pavilion at the Festival of Britain. His love of English vernacular art was behind his undertaking later in the decade, while teaching at the Ruskin School of Drawing, to paint portraits of the decorat-

ed barges belonging to Oxford

colleges. "As he was painting

one of them," a friend recalls, "it began to move. Kenneth was at first puzzled, thought his drawing incorrect, then discovered it was actually sinking. They were so old that they have disappeared now, but Kenneth painted most if not all of them."

Kenneth Rowntree was born at Scarborough in 1915 into a Quaker family. He was edu-cated at Bootham School, York, and trained at the Ruskin School of Drawing, where he was taught briefly by Eric Ravilious, and at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. With his wife Diana Buckley, later the architectural correspondent of the Guardian, he lived for the first couple of years of the war in the Lawn Road Flats in Hampstead, designed by Wells Coates in the International

After the war he taught painting at the Royal College of Art. In 1959 he was appointed to succeed Lawrence Gowing as Professor of Fine Art at Newcastle University, one of the most progressive art schools in Britain, where the teaching staff included Victor Pasmore and Richard Hamilton. He held this post until his retirement in 1980. It was at Newcastle that he became receptive to various modernist idioms, such as assemblage and constructivist forms, and incorporated them in his own work. In the 1960s he collaborated with the architect Ernö Goldfinger on coloured-

glass screens for the entrance halls of the Ministry of Health building at Elephant & Castle. Between 1946 and 1970 he had five one-man exhibitions in London. In the last two decades of his life a number of retrospectives were held in the north of England, usually with incisive catalogue introductions by the current Professor of Fine Art at Newcastle, John Milner.

In the Sixties, Rowntree was a member, together with Quentin Bell and Claude Rogers, of the committee set up to look into university applica-tions in fine art. In his Elders and Betters (1995), Bell recollected:

We met for dinner and usually man-aged to transact some quite useful business before the first course was eaten, but thereafter Kenneth and Claude began, in a jovial way, to abuse each other, to raise their voic-es and to dissolve in uproarious laughter. When the other two... pro-fessors finally staggered away in op-posite directions they agreed that any remaining business should be dealt with by me.

All who knew Kenneth Rowntree will testify not only to his abundant enthusiasm for life and its pleasures, but also to his hospitality, generosity of spirit. and conspicuous modesty about his own achievements.

Richard Calvocoressi

Kenneth Rowntree, artist and seacher: born Scarborough 14 March 1915; married 1939 Diana Buckley (one son, one daughter); died Hexham, Northumberland 21 February 1997.



Don Porter

The villain of Robert Redford's trenchant film The Candidate (1972) was Crocker Jarmon, a ruthless, corrupt, United States senator, who, in a memorable scene, stirred his supporters with a speech in which he feigned sincerity with practised conviction. "The actor giving a beautiful performance of Jarmon giving a beautiful performance," wrote John Coleman in the New Statesman, "turns out to be a sound bit-player, Don Porter, a vaguely familiar face from other movies, but one I would have been hard put to give a name to." At the time he made The Candidate, Porter was a veteran of more than two dozen films, some 200 plays and countless television shows.

Born in Oklahoma, Porter was three when his father died Educated in his home state, as well as in Neyear-old Don joined the Oregon National Guard, claiming to be 18. By the time he actually was 18. he had been commissioned pearance in Mystery of the White

Great footballers fall into two

categories: those with dazzling

talent, and those who week in.

week out have been great club

stalwarts, perhaps never reach-

ing international heights, but

serving the game with distinction

and justifiably winning the last-

ing affection of their home

crowds and communities. Such

a one was Bobby Parker, for 46

years associated with Tynecas-

tle Park, and the Heart of Mid-

lothian Football Club - as a

er, coach, scout, manager, chair-

Parker was never to gain full

Scottish international honours.

This was because it was his mis-

man, and director until 1993.

young player, club captain, train- er of free-kicks from outside the

fortune to be the exact contem- a cup-winning side, but he con-



licutenant. He was by then a professional actor as well, having started playing dramatic parts at 17 on local radio. In 1936 he made his first stage annearance as a messenger in Maxwell braska and Oregon, the 14 Anderson's Elizabeth the Queen at the Civic Theatre in Portland. After years in repertory. Porter made his first screen ap-

porary of another right-back,

the legendary George Young of

Rangers, and Scottish captain. As

a teenager on the terraces at

Tynecastle in the late 1940s, my

first recollection of Parker is as

an acquisition from Partick This-

tle. He would be covered in mud

earlier in the game than anyone

else, partly because he was a for-

midable tackler, partly because he

was a terrific grafter and partly

because he was fearless. He was

also one of the most ferocious tak-

penalty box. The only man I have

ever seen hit a dead ball harder

was the Brazilian maestro

He never himself took part in

Roberto Rivelino.

Room (1939). After signing him for seven years. Universal Pictures proceeded to get their money's worth; in 1942 alone, their new contract artist appeared in Eagle Squadron, Top Sergeant, Madame Spy, Eyes of the Underworld, Night Monster, and as the killer in Abbott and Costello's mystery spoof Who Done It?

The Dead End Kids vehicle Keep 'Em Slugging (1943) was the last Don Porter film for three years. His hobby was photography, which, coupled with his military training, served him in good stead as a combat photographer during the Sec-ond World War. When he was discharged, he returned to Universal to play a lawyer whose fiancée (June Lockhart) mistakenly believed she was a werewolf in She-Wolf of London (1946), a movie that was far funnier than Abbott and Costello's Buck Privates Come Home (1947), the last film of Porter's John Cleeves, an adulterous Universal contract, Becoming a

Bobby Parker

tributed greatly to Hearts' tri-

umph in the League Cup in

1954-55 and in the Champi-

onship in 1955-56. The present

Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Eric Milligan, the most loyal of

Hearts fans, described Parker as

the living link between the suc-

cessful teams of the glory days

of Alf Conn, Willie Bauld, and

Jimmy Wardhaugh and the pre-

sent lively club. In particular,

Parker did much to further the

great career of the young right-

half in front of him, Dave

Mackay, later to be transferred

to Tottenham Hotspur and to

become the Scottish captain.

of Ratho in West Lothian, out-

side Edinburgh, and went to

Parker was born in the village

mount for My Friend Irma Goes West (1950), to Columbia for 711 Ocean Drive (1950), to RKO for The Racket (1951), and to MGM for Because You're Mine (1952). His face soon became in-

ternationally recognised, thanks to the television sitcom Private Secretary (1952-57). Ann Sothem starred as the super-efficient Susie MacNamara, whose life was dedicated to bringing order to her employer, the successful but disorganised talent agent, Peter Sands (Porter). The series finally ended after 104 episodes, but its co-stars were soon teamed again in The Ann Sothem Show (1958-61), which concerned Katy O'Connor, the super-efficient assistant manager of a New York hotel, and its disorganised manager, Mr

outs of Muriel Resnick's play Any Wednesday (1964), Michael Rennie gave up the role of businessman, nakedly admitting freelance, he went to Para- he was leaving because his fel-

school at Browburn Academy. In-

volved in junior football, he

was picked up by Bathgate Ju-

niors from where he went to

Firhill to play for Partick

Thistle. Returning to the east of

Scotland in 1947 he came to

for little pay or none at all, he

devoted himself to any job that

had to be done in the club. He

was also a businessman in the

Gorgie area of Edinburgh. In

the 1980s he took over the

news agency at the St Andrew's

Square bus station when big

companies reckoned that the

price was too high. Both in the

news agency and in the travel

business his philosophy was to

Throughout the years, often

low actor Gene Hackman was "getting too many laughs". Porter had no such qualms; he accepted the role, and earned praise for his performance, playing Cleeves 982 times on Broadway. Taking over from George C. Scott in Neil Simon's triptych of one-act comedies Plaza Suite (1969), he successfully played a harassed father. a womanising film producer,

Porter interspersed stage appearances with such films as Mame (1974), Forty Carats (1974). Bob Hope's Bachelor in Paradise (1961) and Elvis Pres-ley's Live a Little. Love a Little (1968). but in the 25 years since The Candidate he never again had a role as juicy as Senator Crocker Jarmon.

Donald Porter, actor: born Miami, Oklahoma 24 September 1912; married Peggy Converse (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 11 February 1997.

give good service to the public.

Hearts turned to him to succeed

Bill Lindsay as chairman. In

1980 when he resigned he made

way for a company director,

Archie Martin, and made pos-

sible the share reconstruction

which brought the energetic

Wallace Mercer and much

needed money to Tynecastle. He

remained welcome as ex-

chairman in the boardroom, and

Bobby Parker, footballer and

businessman: born Ratho, West

Lothian 16 February 1924; mar-

ried (one son, one daughter); died Edinburgh 1 March 1997.

Tam Dalyell

was a useful director.

At a difficult time in 1975

Professor William Haas

William Haas was influential in promoting the fledgling science of linguistics - a relatively late arrival in British universities - in the years after the Second World War, and, as the first Mont Follick Professor, headed Manchester University's newly established Department of General Linguistics from 1963. His interest in the subject had been fired by lectures he and yet another adulterous had attended in Prague given by members of the Prague School

of Linguistics. Haas was a characteristic representative of a Central European tradition of scholar-ship: he had a wide culture, gritty individualism, and fierce



Haas: distrust of orthodoxies

intellectual integrity, all combined with humour, personal kindness and urbane charm.

He was born in 1912 in Ostrava, then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, later part of the new state of Czechoslovakia. He studied Law and Philosophy in Prague, until the threat of Nazi persecution (his father was prominent in leftwing politics) forced him to escape to Britain via Poland in the spring of 1939.

Once in Britain, he enrolled at University College, Cardiff, to study Philosophy and German, later graduating with first to commit the incumbent of 1997.

class honours, despite his initial total lack of knowledge of Eng-lish. (He used to say that he learnt English by the somewhat unusual method of writing philosophical essays, which were then meticuleusly cor-rected by his professor, J.W. Scott.) He was appointed Lecturer in German at Cardiff in

Although he had received no

formal training ift linguistics, he became ever more deeply involved in writing and research on linguistic topics, and in 1955 he was appointed to a Senior Lectureship in Linguistics at Manchester, one of the first academic posts in linguistics

outside London. He was a founder mainter of the Linguistics Secrets of Great Britain (still the subject's dommant learned specify in the country) and one of the original members of the Board of Editors of the new Journal of Lineuistics.

Haas made his own distinctive contributions to the subject. Among linguists he was probably best known for his theoretical work in mainstream areas, but perhaps more unusual was his pioneering work in the linguistic study of writing systems.

In 1963, he became the first holder of the Mont Follick Chair of Comparative Philology and General Linguistics.
This chair was endowed by a former Labour MP for Loughborough who believed that the English spelling system was seriously defective because of a lack of consistency in the relationship between spelling and pronunciation (Shaw's tongue-in-cheek suggestion of "ghoti" as a possible spelling of "fish" - "gh" as in "laugh", "o" as in "women", and "ti" as in "nation" - illustrates the

point). Mont Follick at first hoped

the new chair to the promotion of spelling reform. However, this was judged by the senate at Manchester to be an improper restriction of aca-demic freedom, and a compromise was eventually reached whereby the holder of the chair would undertake to devote at least part of his energies to the linguistic study of writing وأشافاج بسيمير

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 $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{A}_{i}}^{\mathbf{A}_{i}}(\mathbf{c}_{i}) = \{c_{i+1}, \ldots, c_{i+1}\}$

i.

systems. stems. Haas accepted this challenge, and his work on the basic prin-ciples underlying different ways of writing down human speech was ground-breaking. He was always lukewarm towards spelling reform. He did not deny that the English spelling system was in many respects capricious, but he was opposed to a system with complie phonetic consistency, arguing that valuable features would'te lost. For instance, if the plur! of "cats" is spelled with an "s. and the plural of "dogs" with: "z", a closer sound-symbo match is achieved, but the im portant relationship between "s'

and the meaning "plural" is The department Haas found ed, although much changed in many respects, still, in a curious way, carries traces of his intel lectual style, especially in its distrust of orthodoxies, and a deep respect for the often untidy, and theoretically recalcitrant facts about human language and

language behaviour. D. A. Crne

William Haas, philologist: born Ostrava, Austro-Hungary 28 May 1912; Lecturer, German Department, University College. Cardiff 1945-55; Senior Lecturer in General Linguistics, Manchester University 1955-63, Mon Follick Professor of Comparative Philology and General Linguis-tics 1963-79 (Emeritus): twice married (one son, one daughter); died Manchester 4 February

DEATHS DAWSON-SHEPHERD (JOHNS): Margaret Kathleen on 28 February. Margaret K. Johns was the first female Judith and Andraea, and stepmoth-er of Rosemary, Anne, Sarah and Donations to Mother & Baby Clinic Project. The Little Foundation, 12

GOFF: Rosemary Anne, suddenly on Saturday I March 1997, Wife of the late Bruce Goff MC, formerly Over, new Wentworth-Filewilliam, beloved mother of Michael, Annie and Bee-ca, adored grandmother and greatgrandmother, treasured godmothe and friend, Family funeral on Satur day 8 March Ham at St Barth-olomew's Egdean, near Fittleworth, West Sussex, followed by private rical ausses, tollowed by privale cremation. A Service of Thanksgiv-ing will be held on Wednesday 9 April 2pm at St Bartholomew's Egilean. No mourning. If desired, cut flowers

MACSWINEY: Major John Francis Scan (Royal Signals) (retired), sud-denly at home, on 1 March 1947, aged 8) years. Much missed by his children Gavan, Nuala and Frona and his erandchildren. Funeral at Our Lady of the Rosary and Holy Rood, Botley, Oxford, at 2pm on Friday 7 March, Requested in pace.

YEO MARSH: Joan Priscilla (née Cur-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal, Painon, the Moredun Frondation, chairs the Retiral Lecture at Pentlands Science Park, Penicuik, Mid-Johnson: opens the new Edinburgh Health-care NHS Trusts Care of the Elderh Unit. Ferryfield House. Edinburgh: and as President. Princess Reval Trust for Car-

President, Princess savair rust for Car-ers, attends an English Symphony Or-chestra Concert, hosted by Severn Trent pleaf St James's Palace, Princess Alexan-dra, Patron, Home-Start, visits the

Births, Marriages & Deaths

1 March, Funeral at Waltham St Lawrence Parish Church at 2pm on Tuesday 11 March.

MEMORIAL SERVICES GOULD: Joe. A service to eclebrate the lite of Joe Gould will take place in Eton College Chapel, on Friday 14 March, at 2.30pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversuries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette anuncements (notices, functions Forthcoming marriages, Marriages must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Picase include a daytime

Kingston Scheme, New Malden, Surrey The Duke of Kent, President, attends Committee Meeting of the Automobile As occation, Busingstoke, Hampshire; visit Flag Officer Sea Training HMS Drake, Phy mouth; and visits HMS Coventry, at sea

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at

Birthdays

Lady Elizabeth Basset, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Oueen Mother, 89: The Right Rev Thomas Butler, Bishop of Leicester, 57; Admiral Sir Simon Cassels, 69; The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, premier Earl of Scotland, 70: Mr Jim Dowd MP, 46; Miss Samantha Eggar, film actress, 58; Mr Anthony Hedges, composer, 66; The Most Rev Bruno Heim, former Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 86: Mr Robin Herbert, chairman, Leopold Joseph Holdings, 63; Mr Richard Hickox, conductor, 49; Mrs Ann Longley, Head Mistress, Roedean, 55; Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, chairman, Muctariane Group. 71; Miss Elspeth March, actress, 86; Sir Derek Mitchell, former senior civil servant, 75; Miss Elaine Paige, actress and singer, 45; Sir Jack Rumbold, former president, Industrial Tribunals. 77; Mr Dean Stockwell, film actor. 61: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Stonor. defence consultant, 61; Mr Barry Tuckwell, conductor and horn player, 60; Mr Des Wilson, Director of Corporate and Public Affairs, BAA

Anniversaries

Births: Gerhardus Mercator (Gerhard Kremer), cartographer, 1512; William Oughtred, mathematician and inventor, 1575; Giovanni Battista Ticpolo, painter, 1696; Sir Rex Carey Harrison, actor, 1908, Deaths: Anonio Allegri da Correggio, painter. 1534: Thomas Augustine Arne, com-poser ("Rule, Britannia") 1778; Floa Macdonald, Jacobite heroine, 1790: Franz Anton Mesmer, physician and founder of "animal mag-netism". 1815: Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev, composer, 1953: Joseph Stalin (Josif Vissarionovich Dzhug-

ashvili), Russian leader, 1953; Anna Akhmatova (Anna Andreyevna Gorenko), poet, 1966; Mohammad Mosaddeq, Iranian politician, 1967; Tito Gobbi, baritone, 1984; William Powell actor, 1984, On this day: the foundation stone of New College, Oxford, was laid, 1397; Lee De Forest demonstrated an experimental radio broadcast from New York, 1907; the Spanish steamer *Principe de As*turius struck a rock and sank off Brazil, with the loss of over 400 lives. 1916; civil disobedience in India ended, 1931; the Nazis made large gains in the German general election. 1933: the Battle of the Bismarck Sea ended, 1943: Winston Churchill made a speech at Fulton, Missouri. referring to an "Iron Curtain" across became president of West Germany in succession to Dr Heinrich Lubke 1969. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Adrian and Eubulus, St Eusebius of Cremona, St Gerasimus, St John Joseph of the Cross, St Kieran of Saighir, St Phycas of Antioch, St Pi-

Lectures

ran and St Virgil of Arles.

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins and Lizzie Barker, "The Italian Baroque (i): 'a feeble and fallen school', for and against the Baroque". 10mg Richard Wollheim. The Metaphories of Painting", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Richard Dunn. "Astrological Imagery in Western Art , 2,30pm. Loughborough University: Professor Roy Faulkner, "Atom Management"

Leicester University: Judge Rosalytt Higgins, "Into the Next Millennium: the International Court of Justice in the 21st century", 5.30pm.

Direction sufficient to deal with jury bias

European Court of Human Rights; 25 February 1997

The decision of a judge, faced with an allegation of racial bias in a jury trying a black defendant, to give the jury a forceful redirection instructing them to put all thoughts of prejudice out of their minds and to consider the case on the evidence alone, was sufficient to ensure the jury's impartiality and to dispel any doubts as to the fairness of the defendant's trial.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled by a majority of eight to one that there had been no infringement of the right to *a fair ... hearing ... by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law? under article 6.1 of the European Convention on Human Rights in the case of David Gregory.

The applicant, who was black, was tried for robbery before a jury at Manchester Crown Court in November 1991. The jury retired at 10.46am on 28 November to consider their verdict but returned at 12.28 and handed to the trial judge a note stating: "Jury showing racial overtones. One member to

be excused."

LAW REPORT

5 March 1997

In the jury's absence, the judge consulted counsel for the prosecution and defence about a suitable response to the note. Defence counsel recollected asking the judge to discharge the jury, but in the judge's recollection both comsel agreed to his proposal to issue a redirection. The jury were recalled and the judge infied doubts about the jury's structed them to put out of their minds any thoughts of prejudice and to consider the case on the

evidence alone. After a further direction in which the judge told the jury that he could accept a majority verdict, the defendant was found guilty by a 10-2 majority. The applicant was sentenced to six years' imprisonment. His applications for leave to appeal against conviction were refused.

The European Court of Human Rights stressed that the impartiality of a tribunal including a jury had to be determined on the basis of both a subjective and an objective

Since there was no proof of actual or subjective bias on the part of one or more jurors, and evidence of such could not be adduced by questioning them about the allegations in the note because of the rule in English law governing the secrecy of jury deliberations, the appropriate starting point was to examine whether the trial judge had done all that could be required of him under article 6.1 to dispel any objectively justi-

impartiality. The court had particular regard to the steps taken by the judge on receipt of the jury's note. He had not dismissed the allegation outright but had sought the views of prosecution and defence counsel on a suitable reaction to it. He had concluded that, of the options available to him at that stage of the trial, the matter could best be dealt with by reconvening the jury and issuing a

firm redirection in open court. As an experienced judge, having observed the jury throughout the trial, he had no doubt been aware of the possibility of discharging them or asking them in open court whether they were capable of continuing and returning a verdict on the evidence alone.

Defence counsel had not in fact pressed for either of these courses, and it could thus be reasonably inferred that he had not considered that either had been warranted in the

circumstances.
At most, defence counselwould appear to have asked the judge to investigate the circumstances which had motivated the writing of the note. However, any such investigation would have been impossible because of the rule on

secrecy of jury deliberations. The redirection itself had been forceful, detailed and carefully worded, with particular emphasis on the jury members' sworn duty to try the case on the evidence alone, to the exclusion of any thoughts of prejudice of any kind. The tenor of the redirection, coupled with the fact that no further allegations of racial bias were made, led the court to conclude that the trial judge had taken sufficient steps to any objective doubts about the

jury's impartiality While the guarantee of a fair trial might in certain circumstances require a judge to discharge a jury, in the present case a carefully worded

redirection was sufficient. Paul Magrath, Barrister

مكذا من الأصل

Unlocking the iron cage of Albania

waste of time. If even the Stalinist regime of Enver Hoxha could not keep out western popular music - Italy is too close -Tirana's current rulers are unlikely to have any more success with the BBC

But this decision is significant. Any regime that switches off the Voice of America relay, expels foreign journalists and fire-bombs its own papers is doomed. Of course it can keep going for a while. Protesters can: be machine-gunned, tanks can seal the borders, the secret police restored to the rank and privilege they enjoyed until 1991. All that can happen; and yet the regime's survival has now become a short-run thing.

That prediction does not have to do with the virtues of news journalists though the penny-pinching British government might note the critical role played by the World Service at moments like these. It is to make the simple observation that there is no economic progress, based on trade and markets, without the full flow of information, with official encouragement, inside and outside the country. Efforts are being made by the Chinese government to prevent unbiased news reaching the country's interior; the Iranians want to censor the Internet. Yet not only does technology make such illiberalism more and more

difficult to sustain but information he Albanian regime led by President
Sali Berisha is trying to silence restriction has to be traded off against restriction news broadcasts. It is a market participation. Without knowledge - of events, trends, demands trade is bound to suffer.

So the Berisha regime is voting against markets, against trade, against Albania's only conceivable future. The past is state socialism. Its debris lies all around that benighted country, from the rash of concrete pill boxes, erected on the orders of Enver Hoxha against the non-existent threat of invasion, to the eroded slopes denuded of tree cover by a collectivised peasantry lacking fuel. There is no way back into economic isolation; too many Albanians have tasted the fruits of freedom to let it go far.

But freedom alone guarantees nothing. Albanian liberty began promisingly. President Berisha inaugurated market reforms; the lek was stabilised. But during the past two years freedom has been exploited by gangsters and getrich-quick merchants with - the conclusion is inescapable - the connivance of high officials. We should not make too much of the naiveté of the Albanian people taken in by pyramid schemes: such schemes and their cousins flourished in Depression America. The something-for-nothing mentality is visible here in Britain, too. But the Albanians were conned in a remarkably comprehensive and wholesale fashion; and one of the country's short-run problems is how to re-establish trusting



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

a situation where, willy-nilly, many people will end up losers.

First, of course, there must a return to order. Calm in the streets of Vlora, Gjirokaster and Sarander is a precondition of progress. But if the country can be cooled down, what conjunction of foreign government intervention and action by the Tirana authorities is most likely to secure, say, a restoration of the status quo ante 1994?

No one needs to pretend Albania is a strategic pawn or even a potential contributor to regional instability. Hoxha's only allies were the North

economic and political relationships in Koreans; Moscow's only interest is indirect, routed through Belgrade. There is an oppressed Albanian majority in Serb-ruled Kosovo, but so far Tirana has shown no inclination to stir up that small and dangerous hornets' nest. An efflux of people from Albania could be a nuisance to Greece and Italy, members both the European Union and Nato. But our interest rests on more than the obligations of alliance. It goes wider than humanitarian concern or even the prospect of new Adriatic beaches which one day ought to bring that country muchneeded tourist revenues. It is our stake

the iron cage of unfreedom.

The Greeks and Italians want the Dutch, current presidents of the EU, to convene crisis meetings, and so they should. A comparatively tiny amount of money, made available perhaps as a soft loan, could tide the Albanian government over the effects of the pyramidselling scandal. But the usefulness of a bail-out depends on the capacity of the Tirana government, first, to regain some minimal degree of public confidence, and, second, to establish conditions in which scams and schemes may go on (no one is ever going to extirpate get-rich-quick aspiration) but are kept local and manageable. Is President Sali Berisha capable of

such transformation? It might mean his undoing the results of that corrupted election of last May which saw his Democratic Party into power. There is no point ignoring the fact that among the opposition's democrats and liberals are hardline Communists; yet it is hard to see how the institutions of freedom, economic or political, can be reformed

without cross-party co-operation.

There is a further condition to be met before any offer of financial or other assistance is given by the EU, the World Bank, the United States or any other international actor. It is official freedom of the air. President Berisha's attempt to muzzle the press is more than an effort to stop news circulating

in seeing a small country emerge from in Albania. It is the act of a regime foreign audience to deprived of evidence of Albania's primitive condition and its own people to be left in the dark. President Berisha needs to see how damaging and self-defeating such action is. Albania has barely started out on the rocky road towards capitalist democracy. Getting back to the starting point requires even this small Balkan state to learn liberalism. And it starts today with freedom of information.

Love blossoms with the daffodils

It reads like a fairy-story. A Tory politi-to rule over the Principality of Wales decides to avoid the embarrassment of his decides to avoid the embarrassment of his predecessor: on public occasions he must show he knows enough Welsh to sing their national anthem. So the civil servant daughter of a former director of the National Eisteddfod is detailed as his tutor. Naturally enough she is called ... Lenkins Affection blossoms as they strue. Jenkins. Affection blossoms as they struggle with those clustered consonants and subtle vowels - and soon her ministerial master is to become her husband. Good luck to them. If Tory Welsh Secretaries can't actually be Welsh, or have houses looking out on the Welsh hills, then at least they can look forward to increasing the Anglo-Welsh population.

Wartime roots of UK backing for Berisha

Sir: There is a wider and deeper background to the British Conservative connection with Albania (reports, 14, 15, 24 February). It goes back to the Special Operations Executive's operations in Albania in the Second World War.

In 1944 the late Lord Amery, then a young captain, acted as a sort of political commissar with the Billy McLean/David Smiley mission, which tried to conjure resistance to the Germans from the Zogist movement in north Albania. For various reasons they failed. After the war they explained their failure by alleging that Albania had been betrayed and given over to Enver Hoxha and Communism by the folly and in some cases the treachery of fellow officers in SOE who had channelled support to the

This became the generally accepted version of events because Julian Amery and his associates were for several decades the only members of the SOE teams from Albania who went into print. They contributed to the ill-starred effort to destabilise Enver Hoxha's Albania at the turn of the Forties and Fifties. The failure of that project has been blamed on Philby's treachery, although there are very good reasons for thinking that it would have failed without Philby's intervention. It was an early piece of ill-judged and

excessive anti-Communism. When the Communist regime began to collapse in 1991, Amery and Smiley visited Albania and became active supporters and encouragers of Sali Berisha and his Democratic Party. With the help of Lord Amery's prestigious position in British politics it was possible to mobilise some practical help for them from Conservative and eventually also from government sources. Berisha won the 1992 election and became President; and first William Bennett and later Guy Roberts were taken into his office as special advisers. The UK had no diplomatic ties with Albania until later in 1992, but President Berisha was already assured in this unofficial way of a close British connection. In so far as Sir Geoffrey Patrie has nourished that connection in the mid-Nineties, he has inherited the late Lord Amery's mantle. The 1944 outcome was reversed

in 1992. It would have been best for Albania if hard, revanchist anti-Communism had been softened from then onwards. Unfortunately it has continued to have an important place in the political ideology of President Berisha's government, and this has undoubtedly been encouraged by right-wing advice from abroad, not only advice from foreign friends but also advice from Albanian emigré communities in western countries. The main opposition party, the Socialists, have been slow in distancing themselves from their Hoxha-ist past, and this has made it easier for anti-Communism to appear still to be relevant, although it ceased to be an adequate or even a valid ideology once the Communist system had fallen apart.

Theresult is that Albania today is a deeply divided country, on the way to becoming once again a single-party state, without a new post-Communist constitution or an

independent judiciary. In its rush to the free market Albania has picked up some of capitalism's worst habits. The collapse of the pyramid investment



schemes has precipitated a grave crisis. But even graver is the fact that, for lack of properly functioning democratic institutions, the issue is being fought out in street demonstrations and police repression. Such are the fruits of excessive Communism and excessive anti-Communism. Albania is still in the shadow of the bitter events of 1944, and influences from the UK have helped to keep it there. Sir REGINALD HIBBERT Pennal, Gwynneth The writer, a former British Ambassador to France, served with the SOE in Albania in the Second

Let students see ancient records

World War

Sir: The letter from the Duke of Norfolk and others (3 March) raises issues which extend beyond the Victoria County Histories though completing that series (and. making the data they contain available on CD-Roms affordable by students) would indeed be a worthwhile use of government or

lottery money.

There are also many national historical records worthy of production in a form which would make them practically accessible to students. Some, such as Domesday Book, are already available in modern editions which could be reproduced. Many others - such as the "Rolls" series of medieval chronicles, the Complete Peerage, the Rolls of Parliament, or the full text of the Statutes of the Realm ideally need re-editing, but failing to make the existing versions readily available in machine-

readable form now simply because they are imperfect would be to allow the best to become the enemy of the good. ERIC THOMPSON London, NW2

Plutonium plant spells more waste

Sir: The Environment Agency has invited public comment Agency has invited public comment on the proposal by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) to commission and operate the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP) with submissions to be received at their Lancaster office

by 7 April.

The £300m facility for fabricating mixed-oxide (uranium and plutonium) assemblies should not have been built in the first place. The concept has never been properly debated in a public forum, nor have local authorities been consulted about the safety implications.

The nuclear industry has been vigorously promoting the burning of plutonium in conventional reactors as a means of dealing with the increasing stockpiles of civil plutonium and excess military plutonium from the United States and Russia. BNFL, in particular, has attempted to steal the nuclear disarmers' clothes with its "swords into ploughshares" claims in an attempt to gain public support for

However, only 5 per cent, or less, of the MOX fabrication will be plutonium, with fresh, not recycled, uranium accounting for at least 95

per cent of the fuel. It also appears that two-thirds of the assemblies in a reactor will contain no plutonium at all. It is likely, therefore, that more plutonium will be created

than burnt up. No waste management strategy has been identified for the spent MOX fuel and we have been informed that it could not be dealt with in THORP without major modifications; will yet another reprocessing plant be built at Sellafield and yet more plutonium

separated? BNFL should never have been permitted to add to the plutonium stockpile by starting reprocessing in THORP. Plutonium is a dangerous liability, not an energy

asset, and all reprocessing, civil as well as military, should be halted.

MOX is little more than the next technical fix for an ailing nuclear industry which is intended to tie more countries into the next stage of the "plutonium economy". It will increase concerns about nuclear accidents and weapons proliferation. Ultimately, it can only add to the growing legacy of nuclear detritus awaiting a longterm plan for its management. Dr FRANK BARNABY SHAUN BURNIE (Greenpeace International) MARTIN FORWOOD (Cumbrians Opposed to a

museum (report, 1 March) is a further sign of the social irresponsibility of the privatised utilities. The museum, in the heart of the Radioactive Environment) City of London, was opened in Dr MARTIN HEMINGWAY (Chair Nuclear-Free Local 1982 and houses Britain's telecommunications heritage,

Men who know

they are women

Sir. Jojo Moyes ("When a man

loves being a woman", 22 February) displays a depressing

lack of imagination. Can she not try to grasp what it might be like to

have a body which is at odds with

one's identity? Given all the pain

involved for loved ones and themselves, besides any subsequent

inconvenience, why indeed would

men want to be women - unless

they were convinced they were

And though some may be tragically mistaken and slip

through the medical checks

medical procedures go.

SUSAN MARSHALL

designed to catch them, even on Ms Moyes's figures 95 per cent will not have a change of mind post-

Save BT museum

Sir: The announcement by BT that

it is to close its telecommunications

operatively, and 90 per cent will adjust - rather good statistics as

women?

the museum has suffered from a

publicity and development funding

receives thousands of school-age

children each year. Visitors of all

communications, from the earliest

The museum receives thousands

Why can the company not leave

the existing museum open while

perhaps close to the BT Tower and London's West End?

Trains in winter

trains" (3 March), I should like to

point out that during the period of

temporary rolling-stock shortages

January, Connex South Eastern

on all routes during the worst

major roads closed and ferry

than in previous winters.

Managing Director, Connex South Eastern

ARFEARN

London SE1

winter in Kent for many years.

managed to maintain train services

In this period, which saw many

sailings halted, our punctuality and

reliability were significantly better

caused by severe weather in

Sir: With regard to your report "Rail firm fined for crowded

of requests for information from

the general public each year. It

boasts a well-stocked resource

seeking an alternative site -

ages can trace the progress in

days of telegraphy to the latest

satellite and optical fibre technologies, learning about pioneers such as Bell. Morse,

Edison and Marconi.

DALABASTER

Billericay, Essex

centre.

lack of company direction,

for some time.
Currently the BT Museum

Authorities) spanning some 200 years. The DAVE KNIGHT decision is based primarily on cost (Chair, CND) Penrith, Cumbria

Shaved horns no help to cowards

Sir. Ernest Hemingway, would have agreed with Liz Nash ("The (shaved) horns of a dilemma, 3 March) that the machismo of many (though not all) bullighters conceals a "quivering child who is frighten do die".

I suspect, though, that he would not have supported the premise of her argument that a bull disorientated by horn-shaving, and therefore "more likely to miss would be the preferred animal of the cowardly matador.

Hemingway, who perhaps got as close as any foreigner can to the heart of this mysterious Spanish practice, was clear that among bullfighters the unpredictable bull. who will not charge straight and true, is the most feared animal. If the bull aims directly for the cape. as he should if he retains his alertness and balance, the matador's strict training will allow him to achieve a kill without great personal risk.

If this is so, the only advantage of ing is that should the matador receive a goring, the prospect of death or serious wounding for the man is greatly

reduced. Liz Nash's description of the "fiesta glorified by Hemingway" is a rather wayward stab at his real views. In Death in the Afternoon he mounts a sustained attack on the cowardly matador, protected even in the Twenties and Thirties by a corrupt system which her report shows has changed little.

His case was that only occasionally does the corrida rise above such failings to provide a true contest and an eccentric but stark view of the human condition. Whether it is a necessary or a moral view is perhaps a problem with which, notwithstanding EU integration, northern Europeans are unable truly to grapple. TRISTRAM HODGKINSON London SW4

Political nous of a spellchecker

Sir: My PC's outdated spellchecker (it fails to recognise "consultancy" or "privatise", so it is obviously pre-Eighties) also plays tricks with people's names. It will of course ignore names that exist as normal words, but shows remarkable

insight when it gets to politicians' true identity.

With the latest Cabinet split I discovered that John Major was changed to a grey and feeble "Join Major". However, Stephen Dorrell turns into a double Eurosceptic rallying call: "Stiffen, Derail!" I could not possibly comment on other cabinet members such as "Mutual Coward", but I have no doubt that the party chairman would prefer "Brawn Money" to

Brown Moony

As for the leaders of the Opposition, it merely confirms what we knew all along: Tony Blair becomes "Tons Bluer" and Paddy Ashdown "Badly Outdone" BADLY PUNY (PADDY PAYNE) London SW4

Major question

Sir. I cannot understand John Major's accusation that no member of the Opposition front bench has experience of high government office. It seems that he is either calling for a Labour victory in the name of democracy, or arguing the virtues of a one-party state. CLIVE BRAMLEY London SE3

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity:

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Fig. of the

acine's story begins in 1994, two years after the outbreak of civil war in Alge-ria. Beside him sits Mohammed Sekkoum, chairman of the Algerian Refugee Council, based in the northern. untrendy, end of the London Borough of Islington. We have met in a café, drinking capuccinos and tea out of glasses. It's a meeting place for Algerians who have chosen the uphill struggle for refugee status in Britain instead of the horror and fear of their own country. where an estimated 100,000 people have met their deaths in the last five years.

I have no way of checking Yacine's story. Yacine is the name he has picked to hide his identity - few Algerians are confident enough to talk at all. let alone under their own names. But during a lengthy conversation no alarm bells ring, no grounds for doubting the story suggest themselves. With the help of Mohammed. the story is told in a mixture of Algerian Arabic, French and

Mohammed has the face of the 29-year-old he is, but the black curly hair framing his pale olive skin is going grey. He had been combining his occupation as an accountant with membership of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). the movement poised to win the 1992 parliamentary elections had the contest not been cancelled by a government dominated - as it has been since independence in 1962 by the military.

Yacine was involved in what he calls the FIS "social" department - collecting money, delivering leaflets, preparing meetings and demonstrations to help poor people". The FIS has an armed wing, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), but this is the less hard-line of the armed opposition groups. The Armed islamic Group (GIA), itself split into factions, has pro-claimed that they will kill "all

The complex web of increasingly extreme tendencies has led to the targeting of journalists, intellectuals, trades unionists, lawyers and independence war veterans as well as political leaders and members of the police and security forces and their families. The government has become increasingly hardline too, banning protests, shutting down newspapers and tor-turing and killing opponents. Growing numbers of innocent civilians are being murdered. sometimes by beheading or



In 1990 there were just 25 applications from Algerians for political asylum in the UK. From the beginning of a barbaric civil war in 1992, the total has soared to more than 4,000

having their throats cut, by armed opposition groups or security forces - often no one

Yacine and his friends operated from the district of Bab-el-Oued, an FIS stronghold in the centre of Algiers. When a warning came that the security forces were looking for Yacine. some of the group had already been arrested. Everyone had heard about what had become the routine and unflinching barbarism in Algerian jails. "I went over the Moroccan border. A group of people got me a French passport. he says. From Dar-el-Beida he flew to Spain and then to Britain. And

LIMITED OFFER!

Patricia Wynn Davies looks at the reasons - and why almost all of them are being sent back

first black mark with the immigration service by not claiming asylum on arrival. He had sent back the false French passport so it could be used again. "I was waiting for some papers," he says. "I wanted some evidence before I claimed asylum. At that time I could not prove even that I was Algerian. He was picked up three weeks later, by

it was here he was to experience chance, when an Algerian floor or shake your head. You jail first, after notching up the friend he was staying with was arrested. After going on hunger strike in a detention centre he was sent to prison. He stayed in jail for five months while his application was processed and refused. I am not a criminal. I have claimed asylum." he would tell jail staff. But he says the immigration authorities were unimpressed. As deportation loomed he went on hunger strike again after being moved to a different jail. "I was 64 days without food, just water and sugar. I lost 20 kilograms."

> waiting for him on his arrival in Algiers in January 1995, "They had a blue paper with my photo on it. he says. The torture began at the Algiers police headquarters. "I was stripped. They started beating with sticks and iron sticks. They poured water from

Algerian policemen were

feel you are going to die. Then they took me to the toilet."

It is getting more compli-cated to explain. Mohammed suggests he draws a diagram in my notebook. He draws a body on a plank of wood tilted down towards a toilet in the floor. Lying face up on the plank with his face nearest the bowl, his tormentors repeatedly doused his face with urine and faeces. Someone else beat the soles of his feet. The window was open, letting in cold air. In between dousing him with the contents of the toilet, they doused him with cold water. "You'll get rheumatism', they said."

ohammed was blind-folded and taken else-where. "The torture was different there. They gave shocks in my ears and on my lips and heart. The cell was dark but I could see light when I was having the shocks." He was down. They said when you want there for 15 days before being to say something, knock on the taken to the notorious Serkadji

prison, where security forces killed more than 100 prisoners, many political detainees, in February 1995. Yacine was so ill

removed to the psychiatric wing of Ain-Nadja military hospital. The FIS organised an escape to Spain by ship. He took another ship to Plymouth, entering Britain with false Italian papers 10 days ago. Despite all that went before, he believes he can convince the UK authorities that they made a mistake the first time.

that he was immediately

Another 29-year-old, who uses the name Beca, has been waiting to talk and makes to leave. Mohammed, who was a vet in Algeria until he fell foul of the authorities 10 years ago, persuades him to stay. "They must tell their story," he says. Mohammed points to others in the room, a man whose brother recently died in Algeria,

another who is a journalist. After the GIA issued a statement that "those who live by the pen shall die by the sword".

Beca comes as a surprise. He cannot sit at the same table as Yacine - because Beca was a policeman in Algeria, though he doesn't look it now. He has grown his hair. He has been in the UK for two years and is awaiting the outcome of an appeal against a refusal to remain. He says he would be arrested as a deserter if he was returned to Algeria.

Beca had been a traffic policeman until he was trained as a detective. "We had to learn how to hit targets, how to torture people. We were taught to tie people to chairs, like hairdressers' chairs, and immobilise the head. There would be a drip, drip, drip of water on the head, for five or six hours."

The anti-terrorist groups would fix people to ladders by their arms and then push them over when they were unable to save themselves. They would get a sponge soaked in dirty water and put it in a person's mouth. They would make a man put his genitals by an open

drawer, then close it... "I was involved one day, in the Casbar area. They knew

someone had a gun and I was working there. We invaded his police station. The anti-terrorist brigade joined us. They kept his hands on the table and nailed a piece of wood on them. Nobody can do that job.

pelled to do the job forced him, along with many other policemen, to flee. But be has never seen a policeman accepted for asylum in the UK. Mohammed knows of one, though plenty more apply. Algerians accepted as refu within the terms of the 1951 UN Convention or given exceptional leave to remain, everyask, for the record, if they had ever considered France; Algeria's former colonial master. Suspicious of racism and the links to the Algerian regime, few asylum-seekers would now feel secure applying to France, I am told. Most applicants. however, will not be permitted to stay in Britain.

n 1995, 1,865 asylum appli-cations came from Algerians. Of the cases concluded, founded fear of persecution and accepted as refugees under ers were given exceptional leave to remain on humanitarian grounds because their individual circumstances meant it might not be safe to return that year's applicants have so far totalled 720: 540 have been refused both asylum and exceptional leave to remain; 120 were sent back to the "third countries" which were their first port of call and 65 were refused for failing to comply being interviewed.

For many, it will have been the familiar, depressing story: lack of evidence to surmount a burden of proof stacked against an applicant; lack of back-up and support; saying or doing the wrong thing at the wrong time; misunderstandings about the way things are done in other continents; suspicion; bad lawvers and bad luck.

Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the British Refngee Council, says: "I have met Algerians who have had asylum claims rejected, not because they don't face danger in Algeria but because the Home Office says they will be protected by the Algerian government." Over at the Foreign Office, a Category One warning to potential visitors from Britain is in place, advising against any visits by Britons. including those wanting to con-

duct essential business. Listening to these stories of how people have been thrown out of this country and tortured in their own, I was reminded of what Baroness Blatch, the Home Office minister of state, said during the House of Lords Second Reading of the 1996

Asylum and Immigration Act.
"We are determined to honour this country's well known tradition of harbouring those who flee here in genuine fear of persecution."

5.49% (5.6%APR) a jug - about five litres, -into my mouth when I was lying MORTGAGE RATE FROZEN TO APRIL 1999.

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YOUR HOALE IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT MEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OP OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. FRICE

The opposite of wrong is just not right

following quotation, or tattooed on your wrist, or otherwise made easily available, because it is going to be of wonderful help to you in the days leading up to the next election.

"Under democracy, one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule - and both commonly succeed, and are right." (H L Mencken)

There is a great truth contained in this gloomy reflection, and the neatest way I can think of expressing it is as follows: "Just because you are wrong, it does not mean that I am right."

A moment's thought will show that this is true. The fact that Tottenham Hotspur have lost five matches in a row does not make Arsenal a good team. The collapse of Soviet Communism does not make capitalism admirable. The foolishness of joining a single currency does not prive the wisdom of staying out. Oh, how much nicer life would be if the opposite of bad was good, but experience tells us that it is not.

example looming through the fog, the general election will be presented to us as an either/or situation. If you don't want the Tories to govern us, you must want New Labour to do so. If you don't like the sound of New Labour, you must support the Tories. In fact, all political already. When Labour condemns the Government for its policy, it assumes that the Opposition policy is the right one. If one is wrong, the

other must be right. But another moment's thought will show that this is rubbish. Just because the Government has got it wrong does not mean that the Opposition will get it right. It is much more probable that both will get it wrong. It is even possible that both will get it right. Sometimes one party holds up ideas which the other party recognises as being the same as theirs. Do they celebrate? Do they hasten to clap the other side on the back? Not a bit. They jeer at them for stealing their ideas. They mock them for not being able to think up anything better.



Miles Kington

The whole Tory v Labour contest is presented to us by TV, by radio, by the papers. by Mrs Betty Boothroyd, by the Today programme and by pub conversation, as if it were democracy in action. But it isn't. Choosing between our two main political parties is like choosing between two men in masks in an identity parade. It is simply a cup competition in which both sides have progressed to the final without beating anyone. It is a self-appointed league containing only two teams. It

is a beauty contest in which

ugly of two ugly sisters. It is a game in which the other side is presented as more of a threat to Britain than pollution, China or global

We have only ourselves to

blame, of course. If we end up with a system in which we are reduced to choosing between Blair and Major, then plainly the system reflects on us and our society. If our political system produces nobody worth voting for, it cannot be a great political system, and it is probably not a great society. Indeed, if a great party leader did emerge, he might well be too good for the job. It would be rather embarrassing to have a world-class leader at

That's it! I have suddenly seen the truth! Both parties are unfit to rule this country and we deserve both of them!

the helm of a non-world-class

Well, I have done a dramatic U-turn since beginning this piece, and still have some space left, so I want to ask three questions which have been preying on

my mind recently. 1. Why do we assume that when someone in an English

court of law is acquitted, he is therefore innocent? All that has happened, surely, is that the case has not been proved He may be guilty. He may be innocent. But the evidence

was not felt to be adequate: 2. Why was it felt that Diane Blood's hasband should have given written permission for his babies to be born? Does anyone ever . give permission for it to happen? I never gave written. or verbal permission for my children to be conceived. There are many fathers who do not know they have had children, and there are other fathers who did not want the children to be born, and would have stopped it if they could. So why was it felt that Diane Blood's husband should have given written permission for his babies to

be born? 3. If the European Court of Justice has ruled against the legality of sado-masochism. saying that people should not have the freedom willingly to inflict and receive pain, how can it possibly be legal to play

igby? If anyone knows the answers, please do not let me

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The windfall spend it or save it for a rainy day?

eeling richer today? One million people this week learned that they will get payouts of £1,400 apiece – the members of the Northern Rock building society. This year some 16 million Britons - one-third of the adult population - will receive a total of more than £20bn from the floats of building societies on the stock market. The biggest, the Hali-fax/Leeds, will affect 8.5 million people; the Alliance and Leicester and the Woolwich, another 5 million.

These are big numbers - the largest transfer of cash that has ever taken place in this country, far larger than any "give-away" budgets. What we do with the money - in particular whether we spend it or save it will obviously have a profound impact on the economy. But even more important, it will tell us something about social behaviour, and about a potentially devastating new fis-

sure in our society. The working assumption of most economists is that the bulk of the windfall will be saved in the first year, the Bank of England reckons only 5-10 per cent will be spent. This sounds a bit optimistic (or pessimistic depending on your point of view), for the results of a Mori survey suggest that peo-ple will spend 10-25 per cent of the windfall, mainly on holi-days. Were the spending at the top end of the range it would add I per cent to consumer spending, big enough to feel. But we really will not know what people will do with their money until they have it in their bank accounts, and then not for

a few years. Maybe people won't spend it in year one, but then the car needs a new clutch. very elderly, the over-80s, who are increasing

The only comparable UK experience was in the late 1980s, when house prices boomed and the new expression "equity take-out" entered the language. People cashed in part of the additional value of their home by increasing their mortgage and then spending the difference.

But that other, and less agreeable, expression. "negative equity" entered the language shortly afterwards. Maybe that experience will change behaviour. Will the new insecurity encourage

have become much richer in the past three years, not from windfall gains from buildingsociety conversions, but from the general rise in the stock market. This wealth is spread quite a way down the income scale, thanks to the practice in the US of using accounts with mutual funds - unit trusts - for regular saving rather in the way we use bank or building soci-

ety accounts. It seems that, far from spending their Wall Street bunce, US citizens are saving it. Back in the middle 1980s, the annual rise in US consumption hit 6 per cent. Through the middle 1990s, it has been a little over 2 per cent and it does not seem to have risen at all with the boom of the last three years. Maybe Americans instinctively don't trust the boom on Wall

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Were this reluctance to spend to happen in the UK, from a general economic point of view it would be very encouraging. If people save, then the economy is less likely to get over-heated, and the Government is less likely to have to stick up interest rates to cool it down. The US investment bank Salomon Brothers, which has done some work on the economic



Hamish McRae

It's the biggest cash hand-out this country has

known. What we do with it will shape not only our personal

At the moment there are just over four people of working age in the UK for every pensioner. By 2030, when the typ-ical 30-year-old *Independent* reader of today will be thinking fortunes but our whole of drawing his or her pension, there will be just over two-andsociety a half. By 2040, when these people will be in their energetic 70s, there will be fewer still.

And of course the cost is not just in pensions. It is also in health care for the in numbers even faster.

the cash is mainly saved, interest rates will only go up 0.5 per

cent this summer and stay

and more disturbing aspect.

People who have money will

save it, which is fine. But what

of the people who don't? It is great that one-third of the adult

population of the country is get-

ting these gains, but that means two-thirds are not. And the

another who will tend not to be.

It is a division as stark as that

between home-owners and

council tenants, and it is going

to grow.

It is going to grow because governments have little option but to encourage people to save more for their old age.

This is not a Tory/Labour divi-

sion, though the rhetoric the

parties adopt may be different. The harsh arithmetic of a smaller population of working

age paying for a large one of retired age means that govern-

ments have to try to persuade

as many people as possible to save for their own pensions.

below 7 per cent next year, There is, however, another

So expect enormous pressure to save. Governments of both parties will spend the next 30 years devising new ways of encouraging us, maybe bullying us, to put aside as much money as we can. It will not just be a new individual savings account, as suggested by New Labour, I would expect the UK to have a compulsory savings scheme, with money deducted from wages, by the year 2005, whichever parties win the next two elections.

US experience is interesting. Americans ful young professionals can run a smaller car ave become much richer in the past three or forego the third holiday. People in less well paid jobs can't save so much. People not in jobs

can't save at all Besides, what do you do with people who could save, but won't? It is a great ethical dilemma. You could have two people on identical incomes all their lives, one who saves steadily, the other who spends up to their income. Should the saver pay taxes to support the spender in old age? If you say yes, you are agreeing to punish the prudent and reward the feckless. If you say no, you risk widening divisions in society, widening the gap between the quite rich and the pretty poor.

For that is what these windfalls do. They reward the richest one-third of the country. Nearly half the two highest socio-economic groups will get pay-outs, whereas only 17 per cent of the two lowest will get them.

.There is no easy solution. We have to persuade people to save more, which means rewarding savers so that they become richer. But we have also to persuade those people who have become rich through their own hard work and prudence to accept that some of the fruits of their labour will be taken away. The give that impact of the windfalls, reckons that, provided holds society together depends on it.

Blair's Britain: only the beginning

by Andrew Marr

observer with a shred of historical cautious about this; over-cautious; even timid. And still, the polls may be very wrong. And still, John Major is a formidable campaigner. And Conservative Central Office is still a rich and well-oiled machine. But - Basta! On 2 May, barring the biggest upset in our democratic history, we problem is not just between one group of people who are a thousand or two richer than the other group. It is between one group who through their lifetime will tend to be savers and will have a new government. Bit by bit, soundbite by soundbite, Blair's Britain is beginning.

But what kind of Britain will it be? That too depends, at least partly, on election day. A sharp narrowing of Labour's lead is possible – even, on past paral-lels, likely. Whether Tony Blair wins by a landslide or a short head will affect the duration and radicalism of his tenure of

Downing Street.
Is he in for 10 months or 10 years? Will he transform the country or merely oversee it? Big questions; yet despite them, the Conservatives seem to have

all but given up.
I don't mean that their enjoyment of power has weakened. or that they won't storm around the country warning of the terrible perils of the Blair Terror. Indeed, if anything, their enjoyment of the small comforts of office will increase and their rhetoric will get more hysterical as the day of reckoning nears.

Yet, deep down, most have given up, including almost all of the Cabinet. Real parties, fighting serious campaigns to hold or win power, don't include in the idiot bicketing of today's Tories. In real parties, senior figures turn on the enemy, not on one another. In real parties. the elder statesmen are supportive through hard times, not poisonous and gleeful about their colleagues daily troubles. In real parties, there is a sense of common purpose which swamps the inevitable personal squabbles that are part of daily political life - people back the

leader, they don't gossip about

who'll replace him. Conservatives are ceasing to be a real fighting party. They have the offices, cars, salaries and titles of power, but they are losing authority. When a minister explains the latest government proposal, it now requires the willing suspension of disbelief before we consider the implications. When an Opposition spokesman, such as Jack Straw, makes an announcement, we think, at some barely-conscious level, "Ah, so that's what is

going to happen."
This political collapse of stout party is particularly odd since the Tories have won almost all of the big political arguments of recent years. On taxation, public spending, priv-atisation, the market economy. less liberal attitudes to law and crime, parent power in education, and even the undesirability of European political union, they confront opponents Labour reformers, Britain who basically agree with them. would have no choice at all.



The Tories have all but given up. But if Labour wins, will it transform the country or just oversee it for a while?

Indeed, in many areas, New Labour's pitch is not really that the convergence on many social Westminster elite, may feel in tually wrong - rather, that they have failed to deliver properly, and that I shour will now deliver a similar agenda much better. (Think of traditional education, or law and order, or monetary orthodoxy.) If the country over, then they have thrown in a growing economy and a whole boxful of new, now

barely-challenged nostrums too. Yet Tony Blair's huge achievement is to have made it possible for the Middle English to vote Labour in large numbers for the first time in a generation. The glib, coffee-bar dismissal of Blairism is that it doesn't give voters enough choice. But if choice means the real prospect of an electable alternative, and not simply the opportunity to heckle a permanent Tory government, then without Blair and the other

And Britain does. Despite The realm, in the sense of the have a choice between different visions of a British future: different ideas about democracy. about our place in the world. Even, to put it pompously, our national destiny.

The Tories have become dazzled by the philosophical challenge of European Union - a proposition they cannot ignore and cannot accept. Their great purpose now is to defend one kind and level of power - parliamentary sovereignty, located at Westminster - against all comers. They are the Defence of the Realm Party. This most traditional of political causes goes with a vision of an unregulated, vibrant economy, from which political control is absent at a local, regional or European

The Tories' problem is that only some of them think this way, and most of the country seems to regard it as a romantic, somewhat abstract crusade.

idea of Britain which seems pragmatic and - if we brush aside the rhetoric of New Labour. New Everything - unromantic. "Reform this. Do that better. Sweep aside old nonsenses. Use resources more efficiently." Talk to any senior New Labourite and you find they regard the EU as something to be used and exploited. not argued about. The dangers for a Labour or

Lib-Lab government should hardly need spelling out. Prag-matic administrations are easily blown off course. In office. you may not need a detailed, year-hy-year blueprint, but you certainly need a strong sense of direction. Meanwhile, the longer-term outlook for the public finances is not nearly as sunny as it seems today; and the history of the century suggests that the Tories will be back. revitalised and reunited, within a few years of defeat in the polls, however comprehensive. If Blair wins a strong working majority in May, then we will soon see how seriously he takes this. Will he reshape the country's politics, so that Tory nationalism is marginalised and the failures of the party in power today are translated

into longer-term defeat? Doing that will mean empowering local and regional politics, introducing a Bill of Rights, finally dealing with the Lords and - above all - changing the voting system: all the things traditionalists advise him to shun. Already the more intellec-

tual Conservative journalists. such as Matthew Parris in The Times and Charles Moore in The Daily Telegraph, are worriedly warning Blair against tinkering with the Constitu-tion. The subliminal message seems to be: let us Torics deal with national destiny while you take a quick turn at the wheel. Moore even accuses Labour of being high-handed and ruth-"Cromwellian", Coming from a champion of Ludy That-cher, after 18 years of quangostuffing and centralising, and Opposition, this is a bit rich.

But as Tories, Parris and Moore are posing the right questions. Their worry is eloquent and justified: if Blair does "tinker" ~ and today's expected launch of the joint Labour-Lib Dem constitutional progamnie implies he will -then the Conservatives' failure to recover this spring will cost them much more than one general election. It may cost them their century-old leasehold on

Freedom tiptoes out the door

n 1972, Lord Reid, a top Law Lord, made a classic statement of constitutional principle: "English law goes to great lengths to protect a person of full age and capacity from interference with his personal liberty. We have too often seen freedom disappear in other countries, not only by coups d'état but by gradual ero-sion: and often it is the first step that counts. So it would be unwise to make even minor

Lord Reid was explaining why a court could not force a man to have a blood test in a paternity dispute. But today's courts seem to adopt a different approach. This is what a High Court judge said when ordering a forced Caesarean in 1996; "I am afraid the Judge has to do what some may call rough justice. I do not think there is a possibility of giving attention to the legal niceties. I think the information [sic] of judges is to act on the advice of doctors of proper standing."

How can this be happening when many judges in the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords publicise their interest in seeing the European Convention on Human Rights incorporated into our law? Those calling for this innovation have included, the present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham; the former Lord Chief Justice.

When judges order women to have forced Caesareans at the behest of

doctors, the preoccupation of the judiciary with human rights is called into question, says Barbara Hewson

Wilkinson of the House of Lords; to name but a few. Is the present preoccupation with human rights more rhetorical

Just how effective are our senior courts at upholding human rights? The answer is debatable. Think of all the grotesque miscarriages of criminal justice in recent years when judges imprisoned inno-cent people and the Court of Appeal turned a blind eye. On the civil side, think of the notorious order gagging Sarah Keays, and the recent decisions by the Master of the Rolls to "cap" the damages awarded by British juries against police when they falsely imprison and assault people.

Last year, the Court of Appeal gave a ruling in which it assumed that it had power to order a family living abroad to come to Britain for a forced liver transplant on a little boy. The court decided to respect the mother's decision not to subject her little boy to painful surgery. But it reserved the right to force surgery on some-

body else next time. Now pregnant women are on the agenda of the Court of Appeal. In a bizarre case, that court sat in secret session from 11pm on Wednesday 19 Febmary until 1.10am the following day to approve a decision

Lord Taylor, Lord Browne- by Mr Justice Hollis to force a nant women who reject their non-consenting woman, whose foetus was in the breech position, to undergo a Caesarean that she did not want. She was alleged to have a "needle phobia". She was not in labour and her life was not in danger. The court was ready, in the early hours when no one was about, to violate this woman's

> In the future, pregnant women who reject their doctors' advice could be tried

fundamental human rights by ordering forced surgery on her. It also approved a gagging order, prohibiting identification of the woman, the doctors. the hospital, the NHS Trust or the health authority involved. Ominously, the court has

apparently said it will provide guidance for future cases". What this means, I fear, is that it will provide a formula whereby doctors and hospitals. and their lawyers, can "lit women up". In future, preg-

tents", like coma victims, small doctors' advice could be tried children and the severely mentally disabled, over whom the by judges, as witches were censtate can claim total dominion. turies ago. They could be con-This particular woman's case, like earlier ones, was victed of "incompetency", and subjected to house arrest, tordealt with in a rushed "emerture or inhuman and degrading treatment in state hospitals. Forced epidurals, forced gency" hearing. This time, the hearing was followed by a scramble to the Court of episiotomies, forced pubic shaving, forced forceps deliv-Appeal, which gave way in exactly the same manner as the eries, forced general anaes-thetic, forced Caesareans,

The Official Solicitor, who forced medication, forced in was involved in an early stage in this case, is a public official utero foetal surgery, forced detention, forced vaginal examinations, forced Aids testwho normally acts for chiling, forced foetal screening. dren. He also acts for mental patients and coma victims. In forced abortions (why not?). Violence can be ordered by a previous case, he presented courts "where necessary" - all the argument in tayour of forced intervention. His offi-cials have liaised with hospitals without the authority of Parliament. Readers can no doubt in other cases. Where he is imagine the kinds of prolonged involved in applications for pressure, bullying, harassment and intimidation that will now be used by professionals supcourt orders against women. the court has generally ordered posed to be caring for women.

Think what goes on in police

stations. Are the medical and

midwifery professions now the

new "pregnancy police"?

There is literally no end to the

assaults, brutality, indignities.

and sheer prejudice that could

power to decide what adults

can do with their own bodies.

Pregnant women are seem-

intervention. Such is the lack of judicial attention to fundamental human rights these days that it appears that even the Court of Appeal no longer cares that women's basic civil liberties are being croded by flourish unchecked. But the stealth, and without Parlia-Court of Appeal, it seems, is ment's authority. Rough jusadamant. It ultimately has the tice is the order of the day.

The writer is a barrister who specialises in the fields of sex disingly a new class of incompe- crimination and maternity rights

a mortal danger to this country, For decades, Conservatives have benefited from the phiermatic refusal of the English (in particular) to get excited by political ideas. Now they are being penalised by it. Blair, by contrast, offers an this country. How much do you

power centres. But the nation

doesn't agree. Neither the prac-

tical objections to Brussels

meddling nor the rising doubt

about the future of Continen-

tal welfare-capitalism has vet

persuaded voters that the ÉU



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Global

accord

to end IT

tariffs

nears

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is confident of signing a long-awaited global information

technology accord this month to

agreed to scrap tariffs on infor-mation technology (IT). The or-ganisation added that "it was confident" that the rest would

soon follow.

The US, the European Union,

Japan and more than a dozen

other countries had agreed in

December in Singapore to re-

move tariffs on computer mon-itors, chips and other products by 2000. They set a deadline of 15 March to enlist other nations,

and that process was largely complete, the WTO said.

Companies that make com-

We want tariffs to be lifted

as quickly as possible," said Karl

Leitenberger, an executive in

the economics department of

Siemens. German producers

business & city **BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER**

BT starts fight to win over US shareholders

Chris Godsmark Washington

British Telecom is to launch an unprecedented marketing campaign in the US in an attempt to convince sceptical American investors about the merits of its planned £13bn merger with long-distance carrier MCl. before crucial shareholders' votes on both sides of the Atlantic next month.

At a series of road-shows for the US investment community over the next few weeks, BT will seek to head off any moves by shareholders to sell their stock immediately after the merger is completed, risking a downward spiral in the price. BT has claimed the tie-up will boost the two sides' profits by £500m in live years through improved global marketing and savings on

Under the terms of the deal, existing MCI shareholders will get 5.4 shares in BT - which will be renamed Concert after the two companies' business communications joint-venture - and \$6 per share in cash. US investors

approve the deal at an extraorlinary general meeting at Wemblev Arena on 15 April.

James Ross, telecoms analyst at stockbrokers Hoare Govett, explained: There's obviously going to be some stock flowing back from the US because init. The merged company won't sit so easily in their portfolios because it will clearly no longer be a domestic organisation.

The scepticism explains BT's plans to get permission to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares immediately following the merger, which is due to be completed on 1 October. The move would enable BT to mop up any Concert stock dumped in the US. Shareholders will be at the EGM in April.

What worries US shareholders most is that MCFs famously aggressive marketing-led culture, sharpened through bitter battles with arch-rival AT&T will be swamped by BT's background as a bureaucratic, state-owned monopoly. Though MCI's domesare to vote on the merger at tie US business will continue to

BT shareholders will be asked to UK management will exert a

Moves by British executives to end MCI's long-standing policy of rewarding staff with generous share options is the most obvious example of the looming culture shock. MCI's annual report, filed this week, shows that options worth \$195m (£121m) were issued to staff in 1996, up from \$167m the year before. Insiders estimate the merger will create at least 200 MCI millionaires.

Mark Lambert of NatWest Securities sums up the problem: "Concert will be a very different vehicle to MCI. It'll have lower growth than the American business and be less highly motivated managerially. If MCI has a fantastic year, it all gets diluted if BT merely has a good year."

The gap in growth prospects from the two companies' traditional markets is also yawning. In the nine months to December BT's turnover grew by 4.3 per cent to £11.13bn. MCI's annual revenues in 1996 grew by 21 per cent. to \$18.5bn. It is hardly surprising that investors are sceptical about BT's claim that MCI's annual meeting on 2 be run mostly independently the deal will enable both com-April, while more than 2 million from BT investors suspect the panies to grow more quickly.



Conversely, British investors are having to get to know a lot more about MCI, which many regard as having historically put risk before reward. At the first analysts' road-show in Washington this week, MCI said it was considering accelerating its push into the \$100bn-

a-year US local telephone market as competition is gradually introduced. A 1996 law will progressively end the monopoly of local phone companies, the so-called Baby Bells, which were split off from AT&T in 1984. The changes will also allow regional operators to com-

pete with MCI in the long-distance market for the first time.

So far MCI has pledged to invest \$1bn building local fibreoptic networks, of which some \$600m will be spent this year. However Nate Davis, senior vice president of local mar-kets, said investment could be attack organisation.

pushed much further and brushed off the threat from the regional operators in the longdistance market. "They are going to be spending their time protecting their market share. We are going to be spending our time taking market share as an

could benefit even more than their US counterparts, he said because European tariffs and imports are high.

Renato Ruggiero, directorgeneral of the WTO, said the Geneva-based arbiter of world trade had commitments from countries representing more

an abolition of tariffs.

than 90 per cent of the world market in IT products, "putting us over the threshold that was set for an agreement". Siemens said an accord would save the company between DM70m and DM100m (£25m and £36m) a year starting in 2000, based on current imports. In December, LG Electronics,

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electronics producer, said it would double its overseas earnings if tariffs were removed. The WTO said Malaysia. Thailand and India were among countries that pledged in recent days to scrap tariffs. Malaysia accounts for about 5 per cent of

th Korea's second-bigges

the global industry. "This should give companies more financial muscle to offset sharp price competition in this industry," said Bernhard Rohleder, a spokesman for Eurobit, an industry group which represents 90 per cent of the European IT market. Most of the benefits would probably get passed on to customers, though an accord would help companies too, he said.

didn't know yet which retailers Import duties totalled 1.6bn ecus (£1.13bn) in Europe last Pearson is expected to give year, said Eurobit, which estimated the average computer would be 50 ecus cheaper with-

Halifax could have another £3bn to hand out after float

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

or return to its millions of new shareholders after it floats on the stock market in June.

The society will have the largest shareholder register in the UK when its 8.5 million members each receive an estimated average of £1,300 in free shares in the £12bn flotation that will result in Halifax becoming a bank. Halifax's strong financial position means that they could be in line for further bonus payouts after the floration, provided they remain investors.

Roger Boyes, Halifax's group finance director, said vesterday that the use of the excess money was an urgent matter. "But, we're not going to knee-jerk on it," he said.

-We have not ruled out repatriating capital to shareholders." Mr Boyes said. But he stressed this did not imply that Halifax would definitely return capital

to shareholders after the flotabusinesses.



to be one of the winners'

ily amount to £3bn. Their calculations are based on the fact that Halifax has a tier-one" capital ratio of 14 per cent. The Bank of England requires banks to maintain a ratio of 4 per cent but in practice most banks operate vith capital ratios well above this level. Most high street banks have ratios between 6

and 8 per cent.
At 31 December, 1996. Halifax had £6.87bn of tier-one capital, which is essentially its reserves. It could function easily with half this amount of capital and still conform with

its banking rivals. The question now, the \$64,000 question, is what do we do with this ... It has to be put to work," Mr Boyes said.

When Halifax becomes a bank it will come under pressure to produce the best possible returns for shareholders.

Mr Boyes refused to disclose In the past, it has put its excess tion. He pointed to alternative the precise amount of excess capital into its reserves while ways to use the money, such as capital Halifax will have after its banking rivals have making acquisitions, developing its flotation but analysts cal-redistributed surplus cash to

"Our strategy is to put this capital to good use." Mr Boyes Halifax vesterday reported pre-tax profits, before exceptionals, of £1.43bn in 1996, a

rise of 6.6 per cent. Mike Blackburn, chief executive of Halifax, said the society had restructured its

senior management to reflect its main line of businesses. We intend to be one of the winners in what will be an overcrowded marketplace," he

The society took a lo per cent of share, or £11.5bn, of gross mortgage lending last

year. This is less than its more traditional 20 per cent share of the mortgage market. Mr Blackburn said pricing of mortgage offers had returned to more acceptable levels last

year, although Halifax still

spent £626m in offering cash-

Unlike many other mortgage lenders, Halifax accounts for the they are incurred. It said since 1994/5 its profits had been reduced by £472m as a result of this accounting policy.

Aside from the core mortgage business, the society took an 8 per cent share of the new current accounts opened in the UK last year. It now has more than 1.6 million current account holders, a rise of 28 per cent during the year.

Halifax took an exceptional charge last year of £153m to cover the cost of its conversion to a bank and a charge of £298m to cover the costs of its integration and merger with Leeds Permanent. The total cost of that merger was £331m as £33m of costs were taken in 1995.

Since the merger, Halifax has reduced the number of branches and cut 1,200 head office jobs. It has also created 1,000 jobs in other business

Pearson may face lawsuit

The unauthorised discounting scandal which last month engulfed Pearson, the publishing to television conglomerate, report that the US arm of its Penguin publishing subsidiary could face legal action from

Penguin USA has already announced a \$163m (£100m) charge in the wake of the discovery that Christina Galatro, a former credit manager in its New Jersey office, had been hid-ing unsanctioned discounts to retailers in the company's accounts. But a report in the US vesterday said that Penguin USA was now being accused by independent booksellers of not extending to them discounts

did not detail, at a meeting yesterday morning. The association

A lawyer for the Association aid the discounts could violate

based Penguin signed in 1995.

Lynton, Penguin's chief execu-

tive since last year, said he

were offered discounts.

Magnus Grimond

hoped to make a further announcement in the next few days, he added. a consent decree the New York-According to Jerald Jacobs, a independent booksellers.

lawyer with Jenner and Block the Washington firm that represents the ABA: "We believe Penguin was giving large amounts of credit to only the very largest booksellers. If the practice occurred after the consent decree was signed, Penguin may be in violation of a court The company was one of several large US publishers which signed consent orders promising not to favour big chains with discounts. Michael

available to large retailers. The American Booksellers Association (ABA) was reported as saying it was considering mounting a lawsuit against the company on allegations of offering unfair discounts. A spokesman said the board had discussed this and other possible courses of action, which he

details of its investigation into the affair when it announces its annual results in two weeks. Market report, page 23 out tariffs. Millionaire

Suppliers ask watchdog to block British Gas price cuts

Independent gas suppliers and gas consumers yesterday called on the industry regulator Ofgas to block new price cuts announced by British Gas, warning that they could destroy attempts to open up the mar-

ket to full competition. The calls followed confirmation that British Gas Home Energy is offering households in the South-west discounts of 12 per cent - equivalent to £40 off the average annual bill of £330 - in an effort to stem the loss of

customers to rival suppliers. The Gas Consumers' Council described the price reductions as "premature" while rival could wreck the Government's attempts to liberalise the domestic gas market.

Clare Spottiswoode, director general of Ofgas, immediately launched a four-week consultawill decide whether the price cuts should be allowed to stand. The new tariff applies only to cus-

tomers paying by direct debit. Since the South-west was opened up to full competition last April. British Gas has lost 19 per cent of the market. About 95,000 of the 500,000 households in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset have switched to rival suppliers, lured by discounts of up to 20 per cent on British Gas's standard tariff.

etition began among 600,000 households in Avon and Dorset last month and a third trial involving 900,000 customers in Sussex and Kent begins this

Peter Franklin, joint general manager of Calortex, one of the biggest independent suppliers in the South-west, with about 45,000 customers, said; "We are extremely concerned at this move, which poses a significant threat to the development of competition. British Gas is still nine times the size of the next biggest supplier and competition is still only in its infancy. This is abuse of a dominant position designed to frustrate the growth of competition and bring back what amounts to a private-sector monopoly." He also pointed out that the

South-west was the most expensive area of the country to supply, being furthest away from the east coast, where gas comes ashore. By cutting prices in the region and keeping them higher elsewhere. British Gas was using monopoly profits from areas of the country where it did not face competition to subsidise the South-west.

Alan Lias, managing director of Beacon Gas, which has signed up 40,000 customers for the trials in Sussex and Kent starting later this week, said: "We will be objecting very vigorously. British Gas should not be allowed to start competing on price until it

has lost at least 50 per cent of its domestic market." to the new turiff can give their meter reading and go on to the Sue Slipman, director of the

GCC, said the British Gas move could widen the already large price differential between rich and poor customers and said it remained unconvinced that sufficient competition had built up. Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Trading. defended the move, saying that one in four direct debit customers in the South-west had already switched to more com-

April, proving that competition vas now fully established. A special hotline opens today for customers to request application forms. Any customers who telephone asking to switch tariff immediately

Rivals fear that if the price cuts are allowed to stand then British Gas will be able to repeat the tactics in other trial areas more quickly. According to industry estimates as many as 110,000 customers in Sussex and Kent - 12 per cent of the market - could switch suppliers on day one. In the South-west trial the comparative figure was 6.5 per cent. Mr Lias of Beacon Gas, a

petitive suppliers since last joint venture between Amoco and the local electricity supplier Seeboard, said that if the reg-ulator did not step in, British Gas could be competing on price and winning back customers within six months.

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behind Lotus killed in crash

Michael Harrison

The Malaysian millionaire Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad, who took control of the Norfolk-based car maker Lotus in a £51m deal last year, was killed along with his wife in a helicopter crash on Monday, it was disclosed yesterday.

The news cast a pall over the Hethel factory, shocking Lotus's 1,100 workers and producing a flood of tributes to Yahaya, who was a close friend of the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and one of the country's most powerful

Yahaya, 50, was chairman of the giant Malaysian holding company Hicom, which owns the car maker Proton and several other industrial, export, finance and banking companies. He invested £10m of his personal fortune in the takeover of Lotus last October, taking a 16 per cent stake in the company.

Proton took a further 64 per cent giving the Malayslans a controlling 80 per cent stake.

News of his death emerged on the same day as Lotus announced further investment at the Hethel plant on new engine test facilities. Under its new ownership, production is being expanded to 2,500 cars a year

due to increase from 750 last year to 1,900 in 1997. Production of the Esprit is expected to rise from 300 to 400 cars a year.

A spokesman said that Ya-haya's death would not affect its investment plans although he was unable to say what would happen to his shareholding. Romano Artioli, the Italian

entrepreneur and former Louis chairman who brokered last autumn's deal and still retains a 20 per cent minority stake. said: "Tan Sri was a great friend of Lotus who: believed in the company traditions and appreciated the exceptional ability of its engineers. He had a great vision for the future of the company and we will ensure that we succeed in carrying through this vision."

Yahaya and his wife were killed flying to the eastern state of Pahang. The pilot of the helicopter was also killed. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Yahaya, an automotive engineer who gained a degree from Loughborough University, was one of a handful of well-connected ethnic Malay, or Bumiwith output of the Elise model

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المكذا من الأصل

putera" entrepreneurs groomed to boost efficiency and bolster exports from Malaysia's lumbering state enterprises. In 1995, he took the reins of Malaysia's

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Cool Br

COMMENT

Could any management with such a stash burning a hole in its pocket really be expected to adopt such a sensible approach? Bitter experience

What will Halifax do with all that money?

إ هدوا من الأمل

What an extraordinarily wealthy beast Halifax Building Society is turning out to be. The first surprise was that this stodgy old institution should be worth anything at all, when floated on the stock market this June, it will be valued at upwards of £12bn, a sum that past generations of members would not have believed possible. The second, revealed in glorious technicolour by yesterday's full-year results, is that Halifax contains within it an embarrassment of riches that have the potential to wreak havoc in the saving and

mortgage lending markets.

The profits first. An increase of "just" 6.6 per cent to £1.43bn may not seem much set against some banks, but it actually rather understates the position. Halifax has chosen the conservative approach in accounting for the cost of mortgage incentives, writing them off against profits in the year they are incurred _£626m of it last year. Others, Lloyds-TSB, Woolwich and Abbey National included, have been less guarded in their approach, choosing to amortise these costs

over several years.
But the real talking point about these results is that seemingly arcane thing tier one capital. Halifax's ratio of free capital to habilities at 14 per cent is about double the norm for UK high street banks and even more comfortably in excess of recommended international levels. A swift back-of-theenvelope calculation reveals that this leaves Halifax with roughly £3.5bn of surplus capSo what to do with all that money? There have gone far enough, took a £654,000 pay are three options - spend it on acquisitions. spend it on organic growth by launching a fierce price war in existing markets, or give it to shareholders. Of the three the latter would seem to have most to commend it. There will be millions of members trying to dump their free shares in the early months after floration. Designing a scheme to mop up all that excess with the company's own money would surely

This, however, may be to expect too much from a management which has already begun to talk, all misty-cycd, about its longterm "mission". Could any management newly unleashed on the publicly quoted sector, and with such a stash of money burning a hole in its pocket, really be expected to adopt such an eminently sensible approach? Bitter experience ought to suggest that it could not. The Halifax "mission" is to become "the leading provider of personal financial services in the UK". Halifax certainly has the money and the size to buy that position, but has it also got the nous? The risk of profligate use of capital seems high.

Picture at ICI is not what it seems

be a comparatively easy thing.

Times are hard round at ICL Sir Ronnie . Hampel, who divides his time between chairing the company and trying to decide enjoyed doubled whether the corporate governance fascists had this excuse.

Quite right too, you might think from the nan who has been handed the baton by Sir Adrian Cadbury. What better example of boardroom probity, responsibility and accountability could there be than this sacrifice from the chairman of the Hampel Committee?

The magnanimity did not stop there. Charles Miller Smith, drafted in as chief executive from Unilever two years ago, also saw his remuneration dwindle, although by the less spectacular amount of £84,000. Ditto the rest of the boardroom team who took their share of the pain as profits plummeted by £348m and earnings per share shrank by

This collective donning of the hairshirt is not quite what it seems at first glance. Nearly all of the reduction in Sir Ronnie's pay was due to two factors: moving from the chief executive's job to the role of chairman and the payment in 1995 of a thumping £425,000 bonus for pulling off the Zeneca demerger. The picture with the other board members

is also less black and white. Even though each one took a headline cut in pay, their basic salary during the annus horribilis in question actually rose. In Mr Miller Smith's case this was partly due to him only having served as chief executive for part of the year in 1995. None of the other directors, who all enjoyed double-digit increases in their basic,

pocketed £500,000 just for turning up to work in 1996. Rob Margerts, who has been put in charge of ICI's problem child, industrial chemicals, got an increase in his basic from £285,000 to £325,000 while the finance director. Alan Spall, went from £267,000 to

But hey, guys, just remember that no one got an annual bonus in 1996. Given the company's parlous financial performance that is scarcely surprising. What may puzzle share-holders is why anyone took home a bigger basic when profits and earnings were going in the other direction.

The game is up for Littlewoods' stores

Tames Ross is absolutely right to sell Littlewoods' retail arm - it is a duff business which has shown no response to the intensive care lavished on it in recent years. Whether he is likely to achieve the price he wants is less clear cut. His claim that Lit-tlewoods will only sell the business as a going concern is so much hooey. No one would want to run the stores as they stand, so this is only ever going to be a property deal and the £450m Iceland was prepared to pay for the sites a year ago may not be so very different from the price tag Asda or Tesco might attach to the sites. The extent of the operation's problems was

flat operating profits in the year to December. Despite pouring £140m of capital investment into the husiness over the past three years, profits still languish well below the level they achieved in 1993. With like-for-like sales growing at only 3 per cent in the runup to Christmas, barely half the rate achieved by sharper peers. Mr Ross has realised the game is up for this tired old brand. For Littlewoods the company, the decision

underscored by vesterday's announcement of

to sell marks an extraordinary U-turn in strategy. Three years ago, when Littlewoods last assessed its mix of businesses, the future was said to lie in retail. It was mail order that was earmarked for sale. Still, one of the merits of wholesale management clear-outs is the opportunity they give new brooms to reverse their predecessors' mistakes. Littlewoods has a tiny share of the high street and has proved itself inadequate to the task of keeping up with the increasingly competitive pace. In mail order, if it gets the MMC's nod on the planned Freemans deal, it will at least he neck and neck with GUS with a quarter of the market.

There is a lot to do at Littlewoods, espe cially if the rumoured flotation is less offthe-agenda than Mr Ross claims. The group finds itself in the unenviable position of earning a poor return of 8 per cent on its employed capital, a full 3 percentage points lower than the cost of those funds. If the Moores family is unhappy with that, the City is unlikely to be any more impressed.

Retail concerns: Tough time for furniture chain Buyers are sought for high street straggler

MFI shares crash after slow trade warning

Magnus Grimond

Shares in MFI Furniture crashed 40.5p to 156.5p yester-day, wiping £239m off the market value of the UK's biggest high as £90m to around £70m furniture retailer, after it to £80m for the current year and warned of a sharp slowdown in from £120m to between £90m, second-half trading. The news, and £100m for 1997-98. covering MFI's crucial new year sale period, underlines the stillfragile state of the bousing kitchens, bedrooms and housewares sold by the group.
Similar retailers fell in

sympathy, with Carpetright sliding 20.5p to 604p and DFS, the furniture group, wilting

14.5p to 595p.
In a scheduled trading update, MFI revealed that underlying sales growth in the UK had almost halved from 13.5 per cent to just 7.1 per cent in the 16 weeks of the second half to date, including the 10-week sale period to 2 March when it traditionally achieves around 30 per cent of its annual turnover.

John Randall, chief executive. said: "In September, I made it clear we had not seen any improvement in the housing market and I don't see any reason to change that view. I don't think it's anything like enough to talk up a boom and I don't think it is anything like enough to sustain the sort of sales increases we saw in the first balf."

But he admitted he was at a loss to explain why trading had decelerated so much across the year. In December, the group announced a 62 per cent jump in profits to £32.7m for the first half and most analysts had been

malle.

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factoring in a continuation of the first-half sales trend on the back of improvements in the housing market. Yesterday fullyear forecasts tumbled from as

Tony Shiret of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, a long-time bear of the shares, said yesterday's market, which tends to lead news "emphasised the volatilisales of the sort of fitted tyandunpredictability of MFI's performance". He said he had lways been a selier because of the cyclicality of the group.

"I always thought this was going to be its peak year, or maybe next year. There is probably going to be some sort of tightening of policy towards the consumer next year by the new-government." This was likely to outweigh any revival in the housing market, building society windfalls and the effects of the group's new Homeworks format, he suggested.

MFI said sales through Homeworks designed to give an airier feel to stores selling a wider range of household goods, were growing in doublegoods, were growing in counter-digit percentages, while those in unconverted stores were going backwards at a "modest" per-centage rate. Eighty-one of the group's 185 outlets are now converted to Homeworks and Mr Randall said they would do the

rest over the next two years. He dismissed fears that the growth differential between the two chains could be widened in the autumn when the group plans to switch the emphasis of its national advertising from the MFI to the Homeworks brand.



Poor performers: Littlewoods shops generate sales per square foot of under £200

Littlewoods stores up for sale

Tom Stevenson City Editor.

Tesco, Asda and Kingfisher were being tipped yesterday as the most likely bidders for the 135-strong retail chain put up for sale by mail order to pools group Littlewoods.

Littlewoods said it was inviting bids for the business but moved to quell unrest among its 10,000 retail staff yesterday by saying it would only sell the undeinerforming high street stores if it was able to sell the whole business as a going concern. It also said it would keep the operation unless it achieved a reasonable price, thought to be well in excess of £500m.

The shop workers' union, Usdaw, expressed anger at the way the proposed disposal was leaked to the press before staff Mr Ross said yesterday a sale were consulted. Michael Gor- of the whole business was not

don, a union spokesman, said: a possibility and a rumoured "I shall be seeking a firm com-flotation was off the agenda. mitment from Littlewoods.. that any prospective buyer will guarantee continuity of employment and pension rights for

our members. James Ross, the former Cable & Wireless chief executive who took the helm at Littlewoods last year, said it had decided to sell its stores operation following a strategic review and consultation with the Liverpool-based group's 32 shareholders.

The family is understood to have become impatient with the retail division's lack of progress and came close to selling the company at the end of 1995 when a consortium put together by Sir David Alliance of N Brown was narrowly rebuffed. flotation was off the agenda. Littlewoods is Britain's

largest privately owned company, wholly owned by members of the family of John Moores, who founded a pools business in the 1920s before diversifying into mail order and then moving onto the high street in 1937. The decision to sell the shops

reverses the group's policy in recent years when it planned to sell the mail order side and concentrate on retail. In the meantime, the shops have continued to fall behind their peers with sales per square foot of under £200 a shadow of the estimated £600 generated by rival Next.

The poor performance of the shops, where like-for-like sales growth in the run-up to Christmas was a below-average 3 per cent, means profits from the division still languish £5m

Boeing expects plane

1993 despite the investment of £140m of capital in the interim.

Mr Ross said he expected interest from around half a dozen potential buyers and he hoped to have secured a bid within three months. The company declined to say what would be an acceptable price for the business but described a £450m offer made by frozen food retailer Iceland in 1995 as "wholly inadequate".

Following any sale Little-woods would focus on its home shopping and pools businesses and would reinvest the proceeds in its mail order operations where it is proposing to acquire Sears Freemans business for

Littlewoods announced a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to December from

IN BRIEF

Prism orders 44 trains from Porterbrook

Prism Rail awarded a contract worth £17m a year for 44 new trains to Porterbrook Leasing, owned by Stagecoach and ADtranz ABB Daimler-Benz Transportation. The trains will be supplied to Prism's LTS Rail subsidiary, which runs the London to Southend line. by November 1999. They will replace slam-door carriages, most of which are over 30 years old, and will be leased from Porterbrook and made and maintained by ADtranz. Separately, Porterbrook won contracts from West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive and Central Trains for the fleet management of 12 Class 323 vehicles. The initial contract for seven years is valued at £13m and, including future lease options, totals £35m.

German current account deficit at DM3bn

Germany had a current account deficit of DM3bn (£1.1bn) in December, compared with a revised surplus of Dm400m in November, the Federal Statistics Office said. November's surplus was organally reported as DM200m. The trade surplus declined to DM7.2hn in December from DM9.8hn in November. For the whole of 1996, Germany had a current account deficit of DM26.6bn and a trade surplus of DM97.6bn, compared with a current account deficit of DM29.9bn and a trade surplus of DM85.3bn in the previous year.

Profits fall at Transport Development

Transport Development Group announced a fall in full-year taxable profits from £36,08m to £35.18m, and held the dividend payout at 9.5p. Martin Llowarch, chairman, said: "Logistics markets continue to be tough and despite undoubted growth potential, margins overall are not improving significantly and remain too low across the sector." The consolidation of the industry, which was much discussed in 1996, had not happened, he added. "In 1997, we do not expect an early improvement in the hire division's profits, and the employment costs we have incurred to equip ourselves to achieve renewed growth in our logistics division will take time to produce results.

JIB Group returns to the black

JIB Group, the insurance company, reported a sharp turnround from losses of £49.6m to profits of £27.54m in 1996, but said competition, low interest rates and the strength of sterling remained challenges for the insurance broking business in 1997. There is a second interim dividend of 5p, lifting the total payout to 8.5p (7.5p).

Wiggins to take over Tomorrows Leisure

Wiggins Group made an agreed £16.2m takeover bid for Tomorrows Leisure. The offer will be made on the basis of one new Wiggins share for every Tomorrows Leisure share. Wiggins already has 25 per cent of Tomorrows Leisure and has been represented on the hoard since January 1995. Oliver Inv. chief executive of Wiggins, said: "This merger will allow us to unlock the potential of Tomorrows Leisure's prime development sites in Essex and Liverpool."

Redundancies cost Greenalls £7.3m

Greenalls Group, the pub and hotels company, is to take a £7.3m charge in the current year to September as a result of a reorganisation and redundancy programme which is set to cost some 100 divisional head-office jobs. The company said it is to merge its Premier House operations with its managed pub division and to transfer 245 managed bouses to its franchise division.

Computer Cab prices AJM flotation

Computer Cab has priced its AIM flotation at 80p per share, giving a market capitalisation of £8.25m. The company is to place 4.875 million shares and expects to raise £3.3m. First dealings in the shares are expected on 4 April. The placing and offer for sub-scription will provide funds for the installation of its mobistar satellite-based global positioning system, reduce reliance on bank finance and provide working capital. In the year to September 1996 Computer Cab made pre-tax profits of £512,000 (£452,000).

'Cool Britannia' lifts exports to South Korea

Andrew Marshall

British exports to South Korea leapt by 25 per cent last year, according to the lastest figures compiled in Seoul. But the good news is mixed with concern that a campaign against imports of luxury Western goods is hitting British trade.

Britain exported \$2.9bn (£1.8bn) worth of goods to South Korea last year, up from 52.4bn the year before. It is gaining market share over other EU countries: though Germany and Italy both export more (\$7.2bn and \$3.1bn respectively). Britain's increase in exports is far greater than the average EU increase of 17 per cent. Britain is the seventh largest exporter to Korea, behind the US, Japan. China, Germany, Australia and Italy. Britain imported \$3.2bn of goods from Korea in 1996. leaving a small and shrinking trade delicit.

South Korea, one of the most dynamic economies in East Asia, is a leading target for ex-

porters around the world. It has recently gained entry to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and has an average growth rate of about 8 per cent per annum, though growth slowed last year. British business and govern-

ment have put considerable time and effort into promoting trade and investment relations with Korea, and the evidence is that this is paying off. The biggest growth in exports in the last year has been in machinery - printing machinery, machine tools, engineering components - electrical machinery and aerospace goods. This year, Britam is hoping to capitalise on its strengths in the Korean market through a series of trade shows, visits and exhibitions linked to the bicentenary of the first

Briton to arrive in Korea. One of the key aims is to shift the perception of Britain from the traditional idea of a nation steeped in history but ill-suited to produce modern goods, and to promote a kind of "Cool Britannia" image of a country which is modern, technologically skilled and fashionable. Amongst the companies to promote their goods will be Paul Smith, the leading men's clothes designer. But something of a shadow has been cast over trade relations by

a strenuous campaign in Korea against huxury Western goods. The Korean government has become concerned by the rise in the country's trade deficit, which it blames partly on the taste of the nation's wealthy for the trappings of the Western good life. British officials and businessmen say that this is translating into administrative restrictions on imports. The Korcan government rejects this, saying that no

British officials claim there is tax discrimination against whisky imports in favour of local spirits. But there have also been protest rallies against Western spirits, and British officials say officials are impeding the import of whisky through extra paperwork and customs checks. Similiar problems afflict exports of silk ties and cosmetics.

official action has been taken.

orders to top \$1,100bn Boeing yesterday increased its forecast for the number of new airplanes that the world's air-

lines will order over the next 20 years from 15,900 to 16,160. The orders will be worth about \$1,100bn (£680bn). claims Boeing in its annual report on the market for new pasnger aircraft Demand for new airplanes

would be driven by a 4.9 per cent average annual increase in air traffic, Boeing said. The industry continues on the upswing," said Bruce Dennis, vice president for marketing at Boeing's commercial

airplane group. "It looks good out there. However, Boeing's forecast for the increase in air travel was slightly less optimistic than it as last year.

The company predicted then that air travel would grow 5.1 per cent a year through to 2015, compared with yesterday's revised forecast of 4.9 per cent to take account of slower growth in the US. Boeing's orders have been

improving since 1995, when airlines started to replace ageing fleets. Airlines have also been increasing the size of their Orders for Boeing aircraft al-

most doubled to a record \$53bn The world's largest commer-cial airplane maker took orders for 717 aircraft last year, com-

pared with 346 in 1995 and just 120 in 1994. Mr Dennis said the Seattlehased airplane maker would see strong orders again this year.

though he declined to be specific. Boeing will produce 40 airplanes a month in the fourth quarter of this year, its highest There are about 11.500 jet-

liners flying today, 7.000 of which were made by Boeing. The world's fleet will grow to 23.600 passenger and cargo planes by 2016. That number accounts for

older planes that are retired from service. The biggest demand for new aircraft will come from Asia, the planes.

where Boeing expects air travel to grow 6.6 per cent a year, compared with 3.1 per cent in Airlines in the Pacific will ac-

count for 33 per cent of the \$1.100bn that will be invested in new planes in the next 20 There would be more de-

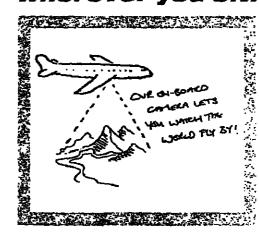
mand for smaller airplanes. carrying between 100 and 240 passengers, Boeing said. That segment of the market

will account for 43 per cent of all aircraft investment. The smallest market will be for planes that hold more than 400 passengers, including Boeing's 747, the world's largest commercial aircraft. About 18 per cent of all investment will be for larger planes.

A few weeks ago, Boeing cancelled work on two larger versions of the 747 capable of carrying more than 500 pas-

Boeing said the small size of the market didn't justify spending as much as \$7bn developing

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THE FINEST IN THE SET



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Smith & Nephew bruised by the pound's strength

Persistent rumours that Smith & Nephew is to be the target of a takeover bid from rival US healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson has been the only thing to enliven a dull performance over the past few years. Although that hoary old chest-nut has been revived of late, it was more the confirmation that the pound could hammer profits this year than further denials of bid approaches that hit the shares yesterday. John Robinson, who is to step up to the chairmanship at the end of 1997 after 15 years in the chief executive's seat, warned the currency hit this year at current rates could be £12m. The price duly sank 7.5p to 183.5p. The healthcare group, which stretches from Elastoplast to

artificial skin, also disappointed with preliminary figures at the bottom end of expectations. Pre-tax profits crept ahead 1 per cent to £179m in the 12 months to December.

Despite its tinge of biotech-nology, many of Smith's products, which include the humble plaster of Paris, sell into very difficult markets. The US, accounting for just over two fifths of sales, remains a running sore. The consolidation of customer groups like hospitals and healthcare management organisations is squeezing margins. Despite some cautious optimism at the half-way stage, average selling prices still slipped 3 per cent in 1996. Mr Robinson compares the medical products market with the two-year price-cutting trauma the pharmaceutical industry went through in the early 1990s and suggests on that basis his business could be enjoying inflation-led price rises by 1998.

That could prove optimistic as long as Europe is such a mixed bag. Smith & Nephew is outpacing the market in Germany, which remains a target for some of its £500m up to 15 per cent. In the UK sales growth slowed from 12 to 3 per cent as no new products from Smith were approved for prescription use and the group faced competition from parallel imports and Far Eastern competition.

Given that background. Smith is doing a decent job. In the US, for instance, overall sales grew 9 per cent against a 3 per cent decline in the market. In wound dressings and

As expected, Ushers of Trow-bridge opted for a pretty con-

on which to pitch its second

attempt at coming to the market. The 110p-a-share an-

nounced vesterday puts a price tag of £109m on the regional

brewer and pub owner, an

earnings ratio of 11.5 times.

tive discount to the sector

and market, which reflects understandable caution from

broker Panmure Gordon after

the failed flotation attempt

two years ago when investors

worried about the company's

dependence on one large brew-

ing contract from Courage.
The discount was certainly

That represents an attrac-

the like, the group has soared from number six position to number three in three years on the back of products like its Allevyn dressings, Acufex, the maker of tools for minimal invasive surgery, is looking a good buy, helping to power the 13 per cent underlying growth in endoscopy sales last year.

But currency and the £5m cost of launching the Dermagraft artificial skin product later this year is likely to keep profits flat in 1997, so the for-16. The main hope remains Dermagraft, which is on track and could yet surprise. Hold.

Wetherspoon has right mix

The JD Wetherspoon jugger-naut keeps motoring, with half-year figures to the end of January showing a 44 per cent rise in sales, pre-tax profits up 46 per cent to £8.1m and earnings per share up 39 per cent

The shares, some of the most highly rated on the whole market, have fallen back from the highs reached at the end of last year but at 1140p. down 2.5p yesterday, they have risen about eight-fold since the company floated four years ago.

The market loves growth stocks like Wetherspoon but is nervous about them and the company is right to stress that what investors think they see is what they actually get.

Five year record

Ushers offers attractive discount

a big enough incentive to

and-a-half to three-times the

37 million shares on offer

and a reasonable premium

looks assured when dealings

Usbers in its present form

was put together through a

Grand Met brewing executives

in 1991. The brewery came

from Grand Met while 433

pubs were acquired from Courage. Since then more pubs

have been bought to build an

integrated group with 541 out-

lets and a range of other con-

tracts for both brewing and

packaging. That troublesome

Courage contract is now much

less important in group terms.

start next Monday.

Smith & Nephew : At a glance

Depreciating pubs to the tune of £50,000 a year each is more prudent than strictly

necessary and certainly more prudent than any of its peers. Importantly that policy means cash flow is much stronger than earnings per share, always a good sign in a fast-growing company.

Wetherspoon is one of those shares that always looks expensive but never is as long as you have faith in the company's ability to continue growing earnings per share in excess of 30 per cent a year. A daunting price/earnings ratio is reined in to more comfortable levels as long as that continues. Fortunately at Wetherspoon there is every reason to believe it will. Wetherspoon's earnings

growth is driven by new open-ings, not like-for-like sales im-provements, which at about 3 per cent are nothing spectacular. With only 146 pubs open at the start of the period, however, there is still plenty of scope for growth with the formula of big, music-free pubs with food all day and smokefree areas seemingly what peo-ple want both outside the London heartland and in quite small towns. If Wetherspoon's pubs work in towns of as little as 15,000, as they seem to, then the company's target of 1,000 pubs is probably conservative.

On the basis of Merrill Lynch's forecast of £18.5m profit this year and £27.3m next time the shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 24 falling to 19. Buy.

Singer's chief executive is a dancer too

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Here's a fascinating picture of John Hodson, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, participating project which the bank is sponsoring.
The Miracles Project has been set up to encourage young people in London to

get involved in the perform-ing arts. Nearly 1,000 young Londoners will perform in a Royal Gala Performance at Royal Albert Hall on 24 April. The National Heritage Arts Sponsorship Scheme will match pound for pound whatever Singer puts in. Mr Hodson said: "We've

gone for this because it is a different kind of sponsorship. It carries on a tradition at the bank of music and arts patronage, of encouraging new ideas."

One person, however, has reservations about Mr Hodson's involvement. His 18year-old daughter, espying this photo, wailed: "Oh no, Dad, nobody's going to see this, are they?" I don't know - I think Hodson Senior comes over rather well.

City spin doctors are gnashing their teeth at rumours that ever-youthful Tim Trotter, chairman of Ludgate Com-munications, a PR firm, has pocketed £6m from last Friday's sale of the company to American advertising behemoth McCann-Erickson.

Mr Trotter laughs at such a suggestion: "I can't complain, but I can't comment on what I've received or what others have received.

What will make rivals even more envious is that McCann is planning to rebrand all its global financial and corporate PR under the Ludgate label. Thus Ludgate will expand from its three-legged stool of London, New York and Hong Kong to a possible 110 countries where McCann operates. Other lucky beneficiaries of

McCann's largess include

David Simpson, an ex-Observer employee who is chief executive of Ludgate's London office, Kay Breakstone, head of the New York outfit, and Martin Spurrier in Hong Kong. As for institutional

investors, CinVen backed Ludgate for five years before selling out to Granville last July. Both did well out of Ludgate, said Mr Trotter, who concluded: "We've made two venture capital firms very happy."

City bar-room gossip has it that former chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, signed in a huff last Friday, is

Sources close to the Barclays-owned investment bank poon-poon the idea as "just idle gossip. Anyway, he's away skiing." A source closer to Mr Robertson said: "He's around London at the moment." Wherever he is, we await his new resting place

Working miracles: John Hodson rehearses with some children at a West London community centre

with baited breath. If he does go to BZW, he will meet a stream of analysts going in the opposite direction. Chris Grant, a buildings analyst, is the third analyst to leave BZW since I wrote about the exit of merchant bank specialist Philip Gibbs last week. Mr Grant joined NatWest yesterday, obviously

undeterred by any £50m holes hitting his bonus. Mark Rubenstein, finan-

gate that the UK's Pave

cials, has gone to Schroders. while Charles Winston, breweries, has also flown the coop.

The crisis in Albania dominated proceedings at yester-day's launch of NatWest Bank's pensions manifesto,

"A Changing Nation". Nat West is launching the document because it feels that "something must be done" following the pensions mis-selling scandal. No doubt it will be launching a "traded options manifesto" on mispricing soon (sorry, I couldn't resist it).
Patrick Minford of Liver-

pool University, formerly a Government "wise person", told the audience in Bishops-

scheme is "a state-run pyramid scheme" of the type that has gone so horribly wrong in

Professor Minford said there was no prospect of a ever getting his or her money back on retirement.

Professor George Yarrow, a privatisation expert from Hertford College, Oxford, then ploughed in, saying that everyone receiving a small state pension is currently paying an Albanian tax of 100 per cent on that pension".

This is because the state pension is actually below income support, said Professor Yarrow. Perhaps they should send a UN force into

Thistle

Hotels

profits

General Accident rules out further UK life acquisitions

체 Treanor

General Accident yesterday ruled out further life and pensions acquisitions in the UK following last year's purchase of Provident Mutual, saying it would now concentrate on expanding the business organically.

Bob Scott, group chief executive, said the insurance group already derived 25 per cent of its operating profit from this sector but expected this to grow in the years ahead.

Provident Mutual gave us a strong pension capability... to get strong organic growth," he

"We've got the benefits of scale in our major businesses. We don't have to do anything." However, he said GA would be willing to pick up further acquisitions in the US Midwest.

The Perth-based insurer, which yesterday unveiled a £15m fall in group operating profits to £421m for 1996, revealed that it had incurred £16m of costs integrating Provident Mutual into its existing operation. Net of the charges, Provident chipped in £18m to group profits.

Despite the fall in the annual result, the fourth quarter produced a record result of £112m for GA. up from £84m in 1995. Mr Scott said the three months' figures had been boosted by the absence of bad weather during the period and very good results in North America.

Bad weather was part of the reason for the dip in profits earlier in the year. "With a record fourth quarter we have maintained an excellent operating profit in 1996, achieved despite severe weather losses," said Mr Scott.

Analysts pointed out that the £30m rise in severe weather losses more than accounted for the £15m profits shortfall for the year, which was less than consensus expectations. The total dividend for last year is being raised 10.5 per cent to 34.25p, also ahead of forecasts, helping to push the shares 10p higher to 847p yesterday.

The outlook for insurance premium rates continues to be mixed. General Accident underwriting results.

Commercial Union and Guardian Royal Exchange that there were signs that motor rates were starting to firm. Mr Scott said: "There are

echoed recent comments from

signs that in personal motor, ratthrough. We're putting another increase through in commercial motor." GA sees no signs of rate increases in the home-owner or commercial sectors.

In the US, excluding the effects of bad weather, Mr Scott saw an improving underlying trend in underwriting performance. In Canada, a substantial improvement was achieved and Pilot, its motor insurance subsidiary, produced excellent

Thistle Hotels disappointed the

City despite announcing profits 73 per cent ahead at £60.1m in its first full year figures since coming to the market last October. Its shares closed 8p lower at 198p.

Robert Peel, chief executive,

said: "Key drivers to hotel profitability - volume and rate have been growing steadily since April 1993 and improved strongly in 1996."

But analysts said the profits were slightly worse than expected, especially in the light of sparkling numbers from rival Millennium & Copthorne earlier this week.

As with Millennium & Copthorne, Thistle benefited from the high operating gearing of the hotel industry, converting 69 per cent of extra C turnover compared with the previous year into profit. Mr Peel said Thistle had had a strong start to the current year with sales, volume and room

rates all growing well.
In the 12 months to December, turnover increased to £290.3m despite a heavy refurbishment programme that took rooms out of commission dur-

ing the period.

Earnings per share rose 35 per cent to 10.2p and, as promised at the time of the float, a 2p discount of the float, a 2p discount of the float, a 2p discount of the float Thistle, formerly known as Mount Charlotte Hotels, said average occupancy increased to 66.7 per cent from 65.7 per cent, while the average room rate rose 14 per cent to £55. Thistle is shifting towards business travellers and away from discounted tourist packages. The commercial sector accounted for 38 per cent of room nights sold at Thistle's London hotels but accounted for 52 per cent

of revenue in the capital. The strategy helped lift operating profit 20 per cent to £106.7m. At the time of the public offering. Thistle forecast 1996 operating profit of not less than £100m,

Thistle, 46 per cent owned by New Zealand's Brierley Investments, raised about £250m at flotation to repay debi and invest in its 100 hotels under several brands. The company plans to expand its four-star Thistle brand from 51 properties to more than 70 by the end of 1998 by rebranding hotels. It will also remodel some hotels to increase total capacity by about

Century Inns adds 65 pubs to portfolio

Century Inns. the rapidly expanding pub operator, yester-

the North.

day announced the purchase of another 65 tenanted pubs from the Pub Partnership Company for £9.1m cash. The deal takes Century's estate of pubs to 422. Alistair Arkley, chief execu-tive of Century, said: "This is the second purchase this year and further extends our portfolio in

"The pubs are similar to our own estate, although they have lacked investment.

Of the pubs being acquired, 55 are a mixture of freehold and long-leasehold sites.

The pubs were originally acquired by Pub Partnership in

1992 for £13.6m. A valuation carried out in January by Humberts Leisure valued the pubs at

The last published figures showed that the 65 pubs made operating profits of £1.1m for

the year to 29 February 1996. Mr Arkley believes that the acquired pubs will be earnings-enhancing within the first full year of being under Century's

"While we expect to incorporate them quickly, in the about the contract, but of short term additional resources it would run until 2002.

will be required to achieve the anticipated long-term benefits." he said. Century's shares firmed 0.5p

to 194.5p on the deal. In addition to the purchase Century announced that it had struck a new beer supply con-tract with Carlsberg-Tetley. Century did not go into details about the contract, but did say

Ladbroke closure sparks bid rumours

has performed well so far but

it faces an uphill struggle

from hereon in. A concentra-

tion on tenancies makes lish-

ers unfashionable to a market

in love with managed estates

and the performance of other

regional brewers suggest the

consolidation of the industry

has done little for anyone but

the majors. Manns, the one

That said, Ushers is plainly well run and after the flotation

national brand, is not strong.

will no longer be constrained by high levels of debt. With prof-

its for the year to October pen-

cilled at £15.3m, and with a tax

charge of only 26 per cent, the

shares trude on a prospective

p/e ratio of 9. Good value.

Clifford German

Ladbroke yesterday fuelled further speculation that it was about to launch a counter takeover bid for Capital Cor-poration, owner of Crockford's casino, by unexpectedly announcing the closure of its property division 48 hours before it is due to release financial results for 1996.

News of the closure, which involves Ladbroke writing off £52m and selling a substantial chunk of its remaining commercial property portfolio to Minerva for £25m, also came on the day that London Clubs published its formal offer document for Capital Corporation.

Leisure analysts in the City interpreted Ladbroke's announcement as clearing the decks ahead of a move for Capital. There is also some speculation that Peter George, chief executive of Ladbroke, may instead have his sights targeted on London Clubs itself.

London Clubs is offering 47 shares for every 100 in Capital Corporation, which values the target at almost £180m. London

Clubs shares rose 3p to 384p last night which values Capital Corporation shares at 180p. But Capital's shares were unchanged at 202p with investors anticipating a better offer.

Crucial to the offer could be

the six shareholders which have over 50 per cent of both companies. London Clubs has comfortably outperformed Capital over the last three years in profits growth and share price performance, and its offer is already 31-times Capital's likely earnings per share in 1996 and 20-times its prospective earnings in 1997. But it is already committed to an expensive refurbishment programme, there is no cash alternative and the way is open for bigger rivals, which could include Rank as well as

Ladbroke, to enter the fray. Greg Freehely, an analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. helieves, however, that Ladbroke would do better to use its links with Hilton Hotels to invest directly in casinos in Las Vegas, where returns are higher. rather than get involved in a bidding war with London Clubs.

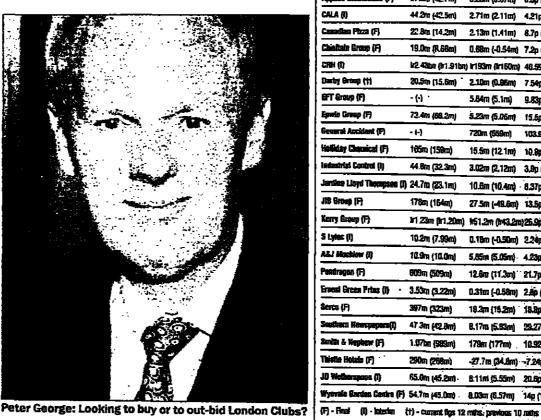
Ladbroke's decision to close

its property division has been on the cards since the company's founder Cyril Stein retired in 1994. At its peak in 1993 the property portfolio was worth £1bn and made a profit of £45m. It had been run down to £373m by the end of 1995 and the rump is now valued at less than £70m.

The property division will be treated as a discontinued activity in the 1996 accounts. After property dealing losses of £5.6m its operating profit was £500,000.

Ten properties are being sold to Minerva at a 27 per cent discount to book value. Only film is payable on completion, the balance will be staggered over the next five years. It is Minerva's first acquisition since it was floated last November. Ladbroke also confirmed the sale of a large office building in Boston, Massachusetts to HN Gorin for \$23m.

The closure of the property division is accompanied by exceptional costs of £52.3m mainly to cover losses on the disposals and to write down the remaining portfolio to a realistic



		· · ·		
	Compar	ıy Resu	lts	
	Turniover £	Pre-tax £	æs	Dividend .
Applied Distribution (F)	57.0m (42.7m)	0.28m (5.07m)	0.3p (10.4p)	1.5p (4.5p)
CALA (8)	44.2m (42.5m)	2.71m (2.11m)	4.21p (3.26p)	1.3p (1.2p)
Casadian Pizza (F)	22.8m (14.2m)	2.13m (1.41m)	8.7p (5.9p)	2.6p (4.8p)
Chieftain Group (F)	19.0m (R.68m)	0.68m (-0.54m)	7.2p (-6.23p)	3p (1p)
CRH (I)	1/2.43(bn (fr1.91(m)	1/193m (1/160m)	40.59p (35.55p)	10.2p (9.1p)
Damby Group (†)	20.5m (15.6m)	2.10s (0.95m)	7.54p (5.33p)	2.2p (Zp)
EFT Group (F)	- (-)	5.84m (5.1m)	9.83p (8.43p)	26p (2.1p)
Eprelo Greup (F)	72.4m (68.2m)	5.23m (5.06m)	15.5p (15.5pj	9p (8.Sp)
General Accident (F)	- (-)	720m (\$59m)	103.9p (82.8p)	34.25p (31p)
Heliday Chemical (F)	165m (159m)	15.5m (12.1m)	10.89 (7.2p)	5.25¢ (5p)
industrial Control (1)	44.8m (32.3m)	3.02m (2.12m)	3.9p (3.5p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Jamileo Lloyd Thompson (I)	24.7m (23.1m)	10.6m (10.4m)	8.37p (8.34p)	6.25p (3p)
JIB Group (F)	178m (164m)	27.5m (-49.6m)	13.50 (-49.60)	8.5p (7.5p)
Kerry Group (F)	1/1 23m (1/1,20m)	151.2m (143.2m	26.9p (23.3p) :	3.83p (-)
S Lyles (I)	10.2m (7.99m)		2.24p (-6.86p)	
A&J Machiew (I)	10.9m (10.0m)		4.23p (8.72p)	
Pendragon (F)	609m (509m)	12.6m (11.3m)		6.6p (6p)
Erwest Green Prins (I)	3.53m (3.22m)	0.31m (-0.58m)	2.8e (-8.3p)	2p (nii)
Sercu (F)	397m (323m)	19.3m (15.2m)		5.5p (4.7p)
Southern Hewspepers(I)	47 3m (42.8m)	8.17m (5.83m)	29.27p (17.15p)	
Smith & Nephew (F)	1.07bn (989m)	179m (177m)	10.92p (10.29p)	
Thistin Hotels (F)	290m (266m)	-27.7m (34.8m)	-7.24p (7.56p)	
JD Wetherspeen (I)	65.0m (45.2m)	B:11ml (5.55m)	20.60 (14.80)	
Wyevale Garden Centre (F)	_ -	8.03cm (6.57cm)		6.12p (5.32p)

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FISE 350 52,649 bargains Gilts Index



SES flotation could bring a cash bonanza to Pearson

Speculation is growing that the middle of a strategic review, the long awaited flotation of more details of which could Luxembourg-based Societe emerge with the group's amual results due on 17 March. Europeenne des Satellites, the company that controls the Astra satellite system used to

this country, is back on. Analysis reckon a stock market listing for SES would bring a big cash bonanza for 6 per cent shareholder Pearson, next step. the media and leisure group

under new management. SES, in which the Luxembourg government has a 20 per cent stake, could fetch anywhere between £2bn and £3bn, valuing Pearson's investment at up to £180m. That is double the amount some brokers have punched into their spreadsheets and could add up to 30p to their sum-of-the-parts cal-

The deck-clearing exercise has already begin. Last month Pearson sold its 10 per cent beam BSkyB programmes into stake in TVB, the Hong Kong television broadcaster, for £111m. Realising the SES investment would be an obvious

An SES spokeswoman confirmed the company intended to float at some stage but said there was no fixed timetable.

Pearson's shares have recovered since last month's discovery of a £100m accounting fraud at its Penguin books subsidiary in the US. They touched a record 792.5p in early trade yesterday before slipping back to close 3.5p adrift at 775p after the American



MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

discounts to independent re-Pearson's weaker tone contrasted with the firm trend among most other blue chips. The FTSE 100 ended 50.6 points better at a new closing

high of 4357.7 and 1.4 points shy of the session's best level. Investors remain confident that interest rates will not rise ahead of the general election. while Wall Street continues to

defy gravity. BTR, reporting finals to-

chains while not extending the Brook Hansen, part of its power drives division, and Danfoss Drives of Denmark.

The day's main casualty was MFL whose shares collapsed 40.5p to 156.5p after the furniture retailer warned on a sudden slowdown in like-for-like sales. Analysis cut back their profit forecasts, with Merrill Lynch reducing its 1997 estimates by £15m to £70m and by £25m to £90m for 1998. MFT's competitors suffered from the

fall-out, notably DFS, off 14.5p Among insurers. General Accident's results lifted the

rill Lynch while ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Soc Gen

were also positive. Commercial Union paused for breath, unchanged at 721p but plenty of buying interest was noted amid the 3.56 million turnover. Rumours continued to circulate that a European insurer, possibly Allianz of Germany, might be

taking a closer look. Smith & Nephew was the weakest blue chip, down 6.75p at 184.25p, as concerns about US competitive pressures and the strong pound overshad-owed results. Also unloved was Ladbroke, reporting finals on Thursday, on sell advice from ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Lehman Brothers. That sent the shares 2p lower to 227p.

Emap's dreadful run continued, the shares slumping another 10.5p to 739p as Credit

buyers returned to paper maker David S Smith, up 15.5p at

261.5p and Pace Micro Technology, 19p firmer at 113.5p. Linx Printing Technologies was in demand, rising 19p to 153.5p on results way ahead of analysis' expectations. Investors have had a roller-coast-er ride since the shares were publisher, last year. Source floated in 1993, the price gyrating between 218p and 58p.

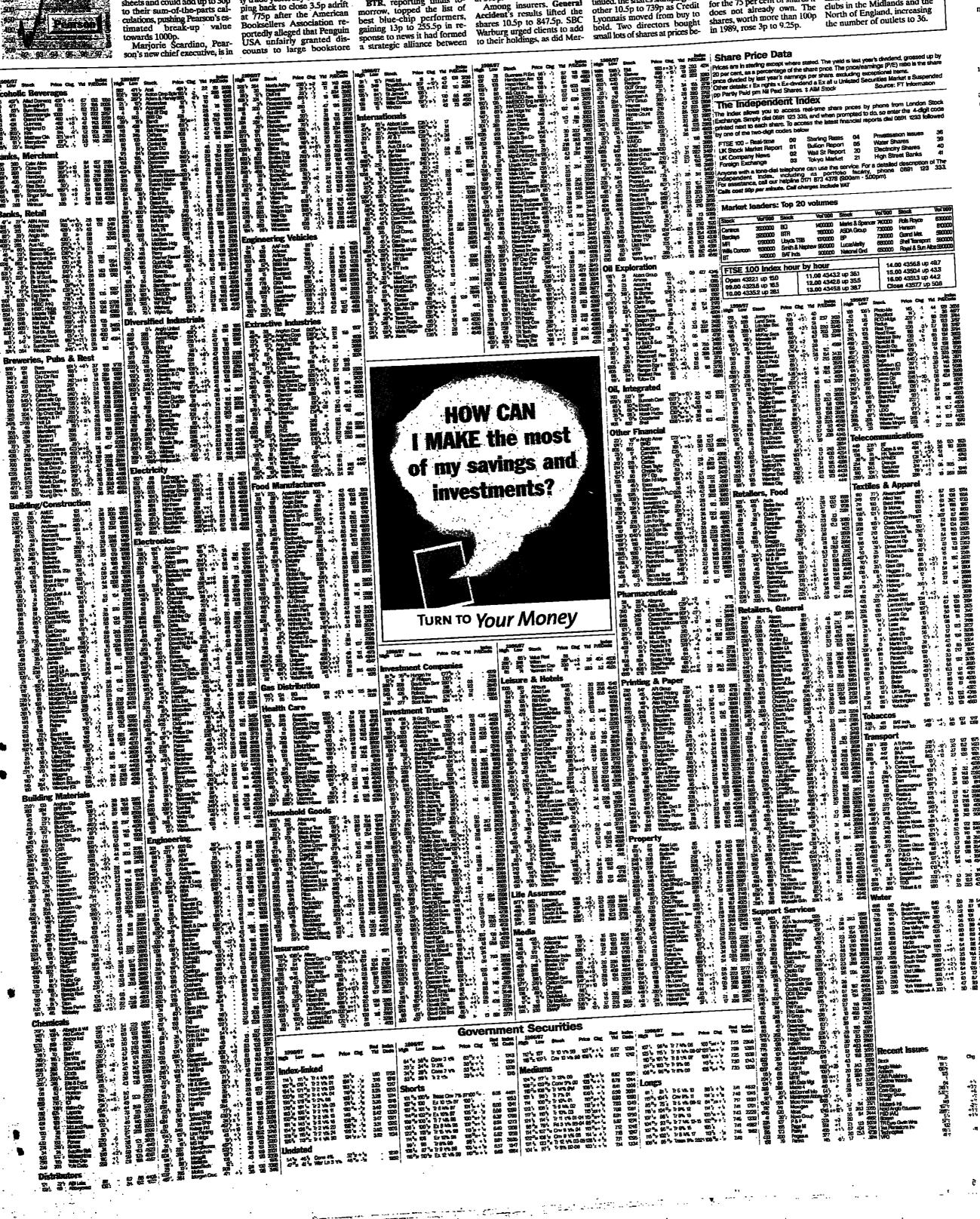
Holliday Chemical has also given investors palpitations during its four-year life as a public company, but the shares added 8p to 134p after the speciality chemicals group posted marginally better 1996 results. One company to put its

shareholders out of their mis-ery was Tomorrow's Leisure, which accepted a £16.2m offer from property group Wiggins for the 75 per cent of shares it

Taking Stock

tween 747p and 751.5p. But Rumours that Midland Independent Newspapers is to die down. One story doing the rounds is that Newspaper Publishing, owners of The Independent, is lining up a 175p a share bid after failing to land Westminster Press, anpublisher, last year. Sources at the Mirror Group, which owns 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, continue to play down the speculation. Both Midland and the Mirror report results next week. Midland's shares edged 2.5p higher to 145p.

Shares in Waterfall Holdings, floated last year at 45p, hit a new high of \$4.5p, up 4.5p. In its biggest deal so far, Waterfall is paying Regent Inns £4.85m for 12 snooker clubs in the Midlands and the



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194.0 494.05 215.26 231.23 65.86 168.79 191.03 463.54 A STANDARD S 100 Largest Insurance Funds ersepters Fired Strangers 108.4.2 (109.5) (109.5 14129 10842 23 54 58 34 80 00 UNIT TRUST GUIDE

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FINANCIAL TIMES

ax dividend exit charge applies when units are sold formerly 'offer' formerly 'bid' Non SIB recognised funds

It's Otto

crowned

the king

showman

Genevieve Murphy

looks at the horse

who has become

an equestrian hero

If you want a concise sum-

ming-up of It's Otto's talents you need look no further than

Geoff Billington, who has rid-

titles were decided on votes cast

Why not do a Dolly with Dancing Brave?

A great deal has happened in eventually know the position of the outside world since the every comma and full stop. gentlefolk of Britain first start. This will give them the power ed to refine the thoroughbred racehorse more than 300 years ago. Waterloo, for example, the Industrial Revolution, two world wars, votes for women and men on the moon, although, admittedly, some or all of this may be news to the more sheltered members of the

breeding community.
Science, meanwhile, has produced Darwinism, genetics and, only last week, the announcement of the first clone of an adult mammal. Yet the methods employed on stud farms have barely changed since the time of the Darley Arabian and

And why should they? The bringing together of stallion and mare is not a process which involves a great deal of coercion, and those in charge of the op-eration would rightly argue that as a general rule, nature is best left to get on with things. Whether that belief will survive much beyond the millenium, however, must now be in serious doubt, as advances on several scientific froms hold out the promise - some might say threat - of a revolution in both

racing and breeding.
The Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, for instance, is part of a worldwide project to map the equine genome, which effectively means that, in the big instruction book of how to make a horse, researchers may

2.10 Morpheus

2.40 true Fortune (nb)

GOUNG: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

3.10 Indian Jockey

to correct its "spelling mistakes", the genetic abnormalities which cause inherited diseases, while breeders and potential owners might also take a close interest in any genes, or more probably combinations of genes, which appear to confer an advantage on the track.

At present, the research is concentrating on health issues rather than those which directly influence racing performance, but as Ernie Bailey, a professor at the University of Kentucky and the Equine be operating in opposition to Genome Project's internation-one another. There might be al co-ordinator, points out, al-five different ways to make a ready there are implications for stayer, and six to make a sprintboth owners and breeders.

Many horses which turn out to be useless may do so because they develop a health to make decisions with a little problem with a genetic commore information." ponent," Bailey says. "The

Greg Wood examines the implications for the horseracing and breeding industries of the successful cloning of a sheep

shame for the breeders and ley and his colleagues around ented but long-since gelded owners is when there is a horse that wants to run, that has ath- : letic ability, but doesn't do it because of a health limitation, that's why the emphasis for our research is on health rather

than performance per se. Down the line, a man could conceivably be used for identifying traits related to performance, but there's probably a complex set of genes which are doing it, and some of them may one another. There might be er. Mapping may simply reinforce things which the breeders · already know, and allow them

the world is not the sort of thing which makes the headlines. The arrival of Dolly the cloned sheep, by contrast, took even many specialists in the field by surprise, and now that the enormous technical obstacles to cloning an adult mammal have been overcome in one species. there can be little doubt that the technique could also work with horses indeed, financial incentives are now the driving force behind many advances, and the situation in which a slow McCreery is the chairman of horse can be worth £400 and a

ground for further research. The possibilities are obvious, if fanciful. A small army of Dancing Braves or Lammarras or the chance to reproduce tal-

Derby winner £15m would

seem to offer unusually fertile

steeplechasers, even a race pitting all the surviving Derby winners against each other as three-year-olds. In practice, however, there are several solid reasons why such scenarios remain a distant prospect, not least the fact that, as Bob Mc-Creery of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association pointed out yesterday. "I suspect that you would be in very deep water legally if you were racing an animal that was a clone."

a TBA committee which is investigating the use of artificial insemination in thoroughbred breeding, which is currently banned by international agreement between the major racing nations. *Scientific advance al-

ing forward to next week now."

work at the track, but his train-

er, Michael Hourigan, scrapped

plans when he saw the state of

by Imperial Call to cut him to

Ladbrokes, however, leave him

unchanged at 5-1 and report

CATTERICK

Lea 5.00 Easby Blue

GOING: Good to Soft.

SIS PROPE

1.55 Noir Esprit 2.25 Cumbrian Maestro

3.00 Boulevard Bay 3.30 KINGS SERMON (nap) 4.00 First In The Field 4.30 Roberty

Left-hand course, undulating and skerp.
 Course is NW of form on AG130, ADMISSION: Club 511; Tattersalls 57; Course 52.70. CAR PARE: Reserved 52, rest Preceding.

BLONEERED FIRST TIME: Coest Francis, Principe Deart (155).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Mobile Measurger (3.00 & High

payers in 1115 LAST SEVEN DATE: Noble PAG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Mobile Measenger (3.00) & E and (4.20) sen. 355 miles by T George from Selbut, If ford & We

1.55 ASKEW DESIGN AND PRINT SELLING HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m

William Hill were impressed

2 clear favourite from 11-2.

the ground.

Dorans Pride was also due to

fects they might have considered. We're doing exactly that with Al, which is a long way ahead of cloning, but though it's a different subject, I suspect it is a rather similar discussion. Al happens already with Arab horses, there are Arab stallions in Cambridgeshire which are covering mares in California, but there could be very serious financial implications if it was allowed ad lib. There are difficulties over the number of mares which could be covered. depreciation and so on. It's a highly emotive subject."

jectively," he says, "and the of-

A lifting of the ban on Al would, among other things, permit top stallions such as Sadler's Wells to perform procreative feats which might otherwise turn him prematurely grey. And it would also, many believe, inevitably open the door to other ground-breaking

support for Cyborgo, the mount of Charlie Swan. They have cut him to 16-1 (from 20-1).

3.30 ROBERT FLEMING NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 3m 1f 110yds

243231 BOLD ACCOUNT (19) G M Moore 7 11 10 A Dot

PODDOO TRIONAL'S HOPE (8) E Care 8 10 0 ... CESTES KNOCKREIGH CROSS (8) B Rothurs

- 9 declared - Householder Control - 9 declared - Householder Cost Set 11to.

Himmon segric 10st. Inc. magnet None, knockelen Cost Set 11to.

BETTINK: 9-4 Bold Account, 7-2 Kings Semann, 6-1 King Of Stock, Karepastino, 7-1 Elliott's Widel, 8-1 Ratification, Tico Gold, 20-1 others

4.00 CONISTON HALL RESTAURANT HANDICAP

612/0-01 TRANSI (USA) (77) (CD) Mrs A Swintenii 6 12 0 | Supple 1300-PG MOONISHINE DANCER (7) (C) D Barber 7 11 12P Milesey (3)

13 SUBJET VICTOR GENERAL HELD LESS (AND THE AND THE AN

herarch weight: 105: The related weight became an 150 August Photo St 150, Soleton Abbey St 120.

BETTING: 3-1 Tip it in, 5-1 Court John, 6-1 First in The Field, 7-1 Fryap Safelfilia, 8-1 Austle Alice, 10-1 Thmizi, 14-1 others

4.30 PETER WALK MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f

CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f

1 0-21912 RESERTY LEA (B) (C) (BF) Mix Reseky 9 1.1 9 P Nove

5-0FFP DISTRILERY HILL (13) V Thompson 9 1.1 2 ... Mr Michason (7)

4 70FP0 PORT ZEDDANN (76) Mr S Sman 7 1.1 2 ... R Whithson (7)

4 70FP00 HIGH MODD (21) 1 George 7 1.1 2 Mr M Fitzgerald (7)

6 0ANDANDS BELLY Mrs M Reseky 8 1.1 N Smith

7 5-4-0F44 TAPATCH (1.5) M W Sesseby 9 11.2 P Carberry

8 31 MONREY WENCH (50-9) Mrs I Goodelou 6 10 11... R Storey

- 8 declared
BETTING: 5-4 Roberty Lea, 3-1 Tapatch, 5-1 Dektonds Bibly, 8-1 Monkey

Wench, 12-1 High Mood, 18-1 Fort Zeddana, 20-1 others

HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 3f

FRYUP SATELLITE (20) (CD BF) Mrs J Brown 6 11 0... Miss F

Chattenham Gold Cup 113 March Toter 9-2 impensi Call, 5-1 Coome Hill, 11-2 Dorats Proc. 6-1 Dariot, 11-1 Dublin Rijer, One Man & The Crey Monis, 12-1 oriers, Ladbrokes: 5-1 impensi Call, Dorans Prote & Chorne Hill, 6-1 Dariot, 8-1 Dublin Fyer, 10-1 One Man & The Grey Monis, 14-1 others; William Hill: 3-1 impensions 15-1 1-1 Coome Hill, 13-2 December 15-1 1-1 Coome Hill, 13-2 December 13-2 Impensions 15-1 1-1 Coome Hill: 5-1 Librou. 5-1 Libran 1-9-1, 10-1 Dre Mark 8 The Grey Mcris, 14-1 others; William Hitt 9-2 Imperial Cai. 11-2 Coome Hill, 13-2 Do-rans Prick, 7-1 Danol, 10-1 Dubin Piyer, One Man & The Grey, Monis, 12-1 others; Cornel, 5-1 Coome Hid & Imperial Cai, 11-2 Danol, 16-1 Dorans Prick, 7-1 Dubin Piyer, 8-1 One Man, 10-1 The Grey Monis, 12-1 others

"For Al you can realistically read artificial breeding." Hamish Anderson, the Weatherbys director with responsibility for the stud book, said yesterday. "I suspect that if the ban was lifted, you would also be lifting it on other forms of artificial breeding such as embryo transfer, and what the advent of the cloning of the sheep will do is make people think in a wider sphere

"Embryo transfer means two things. You can either take a fertilised egg from one animal and put it in another so that the recipient carries on gestating quite normally, or give an animal an injection so that it superovulates and produces more than one egg, then you flush them out and implant one in each of the recipients. At present the techniques are better in cattle than horses, but once technology is produced, it's always going to improve, just as

timately, the industry has to decide whether it wants to go with that particular flow or control the flow a bit. All these things have a definite purpose when you want the same product, but some people plain like variety. and racing thrives on variety. All these things have to be thrown into the melting pot before you decide whether you want cloning or not." Britain's racehorse breeders, it seems. will be doing things their way for a little while yet.

den the 11-year-old show jumping golding for the past five years, "There's nothing Otto can't jump; he's a once in a life-time horse." Billington said. I'll never ride another like While Mary King was in London yesterday to collect the Spiller's Award as leading equestrian personality of the cloning would." Anderson believes that "ulyear, It's Otto was on his Conlinental travels, unaware that he had been nominated as leading horse. Both horse and human

> by readers of Horse and Rider and Pony magazines, for whom Otto has become a favourite equine pin-up since finishing sixth (and best of the British) at the Olympic Games last Outo has no doubts about his star status. "He's quite highlystrung, but he's also very sensible and intelligent." Billington said. "The big-time atmosphere

> > knows he's a superstar so he rises to the occasion." Though he loves people. One can be distinctly bolshie towards horses – as Jenny Ellis, a veterinary nurse who became his groom at the start of the year, has discovered. "He'd lick you to death but you have to watch him with other horses." she said. "It's only because he wants to be king, he's that sort

always works in his favour, he

of person." Ellis is now both long-distance lorry driver and groom to It's Otto and Niko on their current tour of five Continental shows: Bologna, Paris, Moorsele, Dortmund and Zurich. She is sometimes daunted by thoughts of driving such precious cargo and she is al-ready devoted to her charges.

Ofto (her special (avourite) travels well and he settles into temporary stabling like an old pro. In Paris last weekend. Ellis had wondered whether he would be upset when the rubbish tip close to his stable was being emptied, but he appeared to find the performance quite enthralling. Watching the equivalent of the Household Caval-

ry clatter past was another riveting diversion in Paris. Having finished third in the Volvo World Cup qualifiers at both Bologna and Paris on It's Otto, Billington has now earned his place for the World Cup final which takes place from 30 April to 4 May in Gothenburg. Barring injury, he and Otio will also be automatic choices for the British team that contests the European Championships in Mannheim from 27

to 31 August. Such an ambitious itinerary could only be dream about when Billington began riding Gerard Lever's Dutch-bred gelding. Even a year ago, when everyone was wondering who would be the rider to join the Whitaker brothers and Nick Skelton at the Olympics, there could be no automatic assumption of team selection.

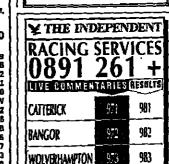
It was not until last year. when It's Otto's earnings reached £250,000 in prizemoney, that the gelding established himself as just about the best show jumper in Britain. The horse who wants to be king had achieved his goal.

SPILLERS AWARDS: Equestrion Personality of the Year: M king. Horse of the Year: M king. Horse of the Year: N is Otto. Spillers Diamond award: British Paralympic team. Scholarships: 8 Palas (show punging). L Bediett toressage., J Gabins thorse trads).

TODAY'S NUMBER

105

The countries who have so far entered the table tennis World Championships, in Manchester in April and May. This will make it the largest entry for a sporting event in this country, including the 1948 Olympic Games.



Confidence restored as Imperial Call impresses

After a disappointing workout with his big-race jockey, Conor at Cloumel last week, Imperi- O'Dwyer, in the saddle. al Call was back on a racecourse. yesterday and his attempt at wife, said: "He went very well completing successive victories m the Cheltenham Gold Cup

was back on track too. The horse's connections declared themselves delighted after Ireland's leading chaser, trained by Fergie Sutherland, it and it wouldn't tuned up at Trainer racecourse. If it was similar to

-HYPERION

Educero: Sust investigation of the Course community of the Course of the

Example: LEADING TRANSES WITH EUNNRES: M Pipe — 27 winners from 76 runners gives a success ratio of 27.6% and a profit to a 51 level state of 58.47; D Nicholson — 14 winners, 42 runners, 38.5%; +52.81; N Twiston-Davies — 13 winners, 45 runners, 20.5%, 511.25; Mackles — 9 winners, 53 runners, 17.5%; +45.37.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: E Danswoody — 27 wins, 81 cides, 38.5%, 528.85; A Magnire — 16 wins, 73 rides, 21.9%; 5.053; D Richgwater — 15 wins, 70 rides, 21.4%; +527.57; C. Lievzeilyn — 10 wins, 51 rides, 19.6%; +54.94.

BLDWEREED FREST TIME: El Rarandor (3.40), Ning But (3.40), Burnatwood Melody (4.10; Phaner Rev (stored A 10).

BULINESSED FUNDS LOSTED, 4.10).

(4.10): Plassy Boy (viored, 4.10).

WINNESS: IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Cope Cottage (2.40) won at Ladiow on Thorswiness: IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Cope Cottage, (2.40) won at Ladiow on Thorswiness: Restinguish on Thursday, LONG-DESEANCE EXINNESS:

2.10 CHRM "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,379

- 14 declared -- 16-11 Decelerates, 9-4 Morphest, 7-1 Zander, 12-1 Patelles, 25-1 Patelles, 25-1 Patelles, 25-1 Al-

alleva Star (4.10) has been sent 180 miles by R Alner from Droop, Dorset.

E3,000 added 2ru 11 Persetty Value £2,375

1 2231 Debussum (28) (CD) Oldered H Wath Mass H Walge 5 11.8

A BOY CALLED ROSE (Ed. III Palmer) / O'Ston 6 11.2

A JUNES (MISS F) Lipid F Lipid 5 11.2

5 20 00 MLLS GAMBUE (28) (Lipid 5 11.2

6 520 00 MLLS GAMBUE (28) (Lipid 5 11.2

7 045003 WORNHESS (21) Glar M Posts D Nicolasus 8 11.2

9 PALARCO (21) Glar Jahn Walder) Publisher 7 11.2

20 2 Nicolasus (21) Glar M Posts D Nicolasus 8 11.2

PALARCO (21) Glar Malaris 1 Publisher 7 11.2

21 2 COS WORNHESS (28) (Rev Rich Cut Ve Parmeethy) Florito 5 10.1

2 050 WORNHESS (48) (Linia) Value 1 Publisher 5 10.1

3 00 WORNHESS (48) (Linia) Value 1 Publisher 5 10.1

3 00 WORNHESS (48) (Linia) Value 1 Publisher 5 10.1

50 WORNHESS (48) (Linia) Value 1 Publisher 1 Publisher 5 10.1

50 WORNHESS (50) (Rev Rich Cut Ve Parmeethy) Florito 5 10.1

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50 WORNHESS (50) (Rev Rich Cut Ve Parmeethy) Florito 1 10.1

50 WORNHESS (50) (Rev Rich Cut Ve Parmeethy) Florito 1 10.1

51 00 SAUCY DANCER (57) (S S Tuto) J Tutok 4 10.3

-14 4 declared -

1996: Joels Cross 5 11 5 B Harding 11-10 (6 Richards) 11 ran

3.40 King Rat 4.10 Carthoo Gold

4.40 Lough Tully

The painstaking work of Bai-

Ann Sutherland, the trainer's and both trainer and jockey are delighted. We think we've got him right now and are quietly confident that he can do it again. We would prefer soft ground but are unlikely to get it and it wouldn't be a problem

O'Dwyer said: "The ground from Clonmel. I'm really lookwas desperate but I was very

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Darakshan (Bangor 2.10) NB: Auntie Alice (Catterick 4.00)

happy with him today. He

it was	smular to last year. looked and lelt a outerent horse
	BACKHANDER (22) Resier Metrath R Prilips 5 11 2 D Syldynater
OR POPO-	set of Rough (251) Ovies Dense Fredet W Cay 7 11.2R Johnson]
0.24852	ELA MAN HOMA (96) (The Porte Cuto A Bailey 6 11 2
?-`ŒF	ESPLA (22) (L. F Doheny)) Nazore 8 11 2 W No.Factored
.: 45205	MING BAT (B) (T G K Construction Ltd.) I O'Shee 6 11 2
1 DS5-P0	KINGS VISION (36) BAS CS Wisord W June 5 11 2T Junes
:: 776≠0	QUINTRY (11) (F A Dickreph) J Marine 6 11 2 W Marston
omon.	VERRO (USA) (286) P D Purol/ K Betrop 10 11 2 Literary EL BARDADOR (CLI IP Statel R Hodges 4 10 8 Tolescombs (5) 8
770004	LAUCHRIC BOCCHAETE (33) ED N Carey D Carey 4 10 8
5 3020A	ASHLDRICAL (26) (Clayton Bigley Pattressinp Ltd) D McCam 4 10 3
	- 70 destroyed

BETUNE: 4-1 Remoders, 11-2 Mag Rat, 5-1 Ein Sten Hows, 13-2 Haftsen Tern, 7-1 Knight is Side, 8-1 Ei Bardsdor, 12-1 First Boe, 14-1 Edward Seymous, Emerald Venture, A 5 Jan, 25-1 others, 1890: Casst Mong 4 10 8 D J Burthel 9-2 D Burthel) 17 cm FORM GUIDE

HALMAN TARM is coming to hand and only lest Thursday on his best race in a write when nurser-up to Meslow Mester in a Hurstington seler. Clear by the fourth flight, he lesst on well when tecked on the flet to firish just over a length ahead of useful yeatench Battlestin Bruce and might not be so easily caught on this course, where horses are constantly on the turn. Rayseptens has taken a wrong turning somewhere since starting the session with a fourth behind Myton's Cholos is Chepstow in October. He was a Chelsenham wither session and really ought to be unbestoble in this low grade at the weights, but his trainer was unable to account for a poor show here in November and, as he hasn't done much better since, a probably best wisched for the present. Kalight in Side was returning effer 26 months off when a staying-on fifth in this Chepstow race, a head behind Ramsdens. The fact that he hasn't been out since might not be a problem, but it's difficult to make a page for him as he mests Ramsdens on 23th worse terms. King flat takes a drop in class, this run when unplaced stong with Laughing Recommer and Kings Vision on test ground at Warwick is probably best ignored, but a bigger tanger is Ele Main Howe on his second to authersperit without or the Plat since then. El Barbarder did enough when of November. He has been running on the Flat since then. El Barbarder did enough when lovernher. He has been running on the Pist since then. El Barbador did enough whe to behind Lady Masna in a Wincenton claimer on his debut to suggest there is a rac

	of t	nis natur	e waiting for him.	Selection: HALHAM TARN
	4	.10	CLOY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CL) 3m 110yds Penaity Value £3,713	ASS E) £5,000 added
	1	2/3211	CARRIBOD GOLD (USA) (6) (5) (Mr. Sharon C Nelson) K B	elby 8 12 2 (5ex) J Deborne B
•	2	. 323	SURREMISON (12) (D & G Marcen Miss H Knight 6 12 0	
•	3	20P-15P	OCEAN LENDER (43) (D) (Sir Peter Gibbings) Mrs D Hame	10 11 3 F Thiley
	. 2	PM4234	CALLEYA STAR (18) (James Burley) R Airer 6 10 7	A Therpion
	-5	100003/	CANDALES PLOSAS (Richard Holb P Webber 11 10 5	R Bellowy
-	.5	E DESING	ASSEML IMMASION (20) (Ed Weetman, Reynolds and Dea	TWM 6 10 3 R Massey (3) B
	•	377000	the state of the Debases Described Described	Date 9100 Date V
		44238	PLASSY BOY (6) (The Sebesson Dangerfield Pennership))	4 Director of Art Comments in
	-8	32/4056	PRINCE SOY (16) (1 Cooper) N Vieller 11 10 0	R PARTER.
	9	43P-P	CHER THE WITEKIN (96) () L Needram) (Needram 10 1	00, 00
	10	00455	CAPTRA'S BAY (26) (Mass M & Do Current May A Health 8	10 C R Karanagh
	11	PATRIAN	BOHNNIFER (27) (Toucesser Members Race Club) M WHAN	eon 8 10 0
	40	ENTONO	sentence or ignit as it wested seems if February 10 0	V Sattery

Passey Boy, 18-1 Capites Boy, 20-1 Astrat assesses, over new 1998; Barntown Bit 7 11 8 D Barlgester 5-1 pl Poph 14 an FORM GUIDE Infet point-to-point vaturer Carrethson set a searching pace until caught in the fast strides by bruic's Brook at Towcesser (2mG) and then led smart pair Simply Dashing and Eudipe for a long way over two and a half miles at Haydock. This extended three miles should set farm more and half soon have a lot of these in trouble, then again that may only set it up for CAREBOO GOLD. This eight-year-old has come back well after missing two seasons, it stands a time bit heastartly when he was only third of the four to finish behind Stotamatique at Haydock and he then rever realy let himself down on baster ground at Doncasson, but it's been pain salling in two runs at Humingson since. Carboo Gold had plently in hand there lest Thursday, and even though he's up almost a stone on that first win, that's soll some way below what he was rated in his huming days. Occur Leader came back and missing 1994-95 to run two porchasing races over fences lest term and this Season started on the right note with a constructive enough while of Southwell. Soft ground was the firely reason for a moderate performance at Uttowster next time and he then blundered away his chance at Market Resen. He's in with a chance at his best, though there is rain forecast. Callewa Star stould be more of home over this trip than 2mG at Windoor lest time.

He is not out of it at the weights.

[4	.40	SANDY LANE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,442
4	211173	ORBOG MOR (153) (M R Johnson) M Meagner 8 11 12
• 2	315775	MPRE MEST (120) (Bit) (Cash-42) 10 Step 5 11 1 I f Rolan (7)
3	122123	DYNAM (7) K3 Das P B Browns M Pipe 4 10 12 A P McCoy B
ã	030,532	WILLINGS F (28) Pactock Potential Recing Mass H Knops 6 10 12
5	665231	LOUISH TULLY (20) (R & Hancooks) F Jordan 7 10 10 Octome
٠ğ٠	000	SIGNITEZAMAS REVENSE (688) (Mark Willerson) NA Wildreson 9 to 7
7	P5080	SHOWSHALL SHOWER (25) (Austin P Kingra) N Telepon-Davies 8 10 3
ġ	700	ROOD MISSIC (74) (M R Johnson) M Mengher 6 10 2B Powell
-š	25-0004	LOTTENN COMMANDER CAS Progr Selected D McCan 5 10 1
· -10	605-243	LLIKE WARM (41) River Stations D Gardotto 7 10 0Sopale Mitchell (5)
11	31466	RALMORAL PROFESS (79) (C) Date S N. Mean) J Percock 4 10 0
• 12	F000	REPORTET SQUARE (23) (24) (54) Hope Smith Lody (54) Maye Smith & 10 (1) A Michaelby
- 4 4 5	-	ANY OF MAIN IN U.S. A. S. A. S. A. S. A. L. C. A. L. C.

1990: Jocks Cross 5 11 5 8 Hadding 11-30 is increment 11 mm. FORMING CRIMDE Having medic the numming in two certier starts and been being there all the way when third behind subsequent winners Spendid and Peace Lord at Martint Resen, QARAMSHAN was read up here last time and showed improved from to beet Gots Squad and hot tawourise St. Melion Drhve. He had latie trouble drawing clear after being produced to lead at the final flight and, it anything, has less on his place this time. Pick of the opposition has to be Morpheus, an eight-year-old who has had little racing since winning a Cheltenham bumper two seasons ago. After so long out of the game Morpheus was undestandebly a bit lesen on this first two ners back and was enchanced in the rear until staying or to be meaning at the first hostering back and was enchanced in the rear until staying or to be meaning at the first hostering back and was enchanced in the rear until staying or to be meaning at the first hostering rear the start of the start and the should make sure Demogram doesn't have first and the start of t 2.40 HUSH PEEL CHALLENGE TROPHY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £1,474 BETTHOS: 8-4 Cape Cottage, 15-8 Tree Fortnes, 11-2 Testrader, 10-1 Orice House, 12-1 Nightney Pro, 14-1 Core Englange 1998: Sound Stranger 9 11 2 Mass S Reddess 8-15 (S Brookshaw) 4 mm 1998: Squarelessages 9 11 2 Mas 5 Beddes 8-15 (5 Brookshal) 4 ma FORM GLIDE CAPE COTTAGE has been a decent humar in his day. Now 13, and lightly-racid in the past two seesons, he gave firm enderce he wasn't ready to draw his person just yet when cheaning home. Miss Millbrook at hereford first time out and showed that wasn't a failer by going on to best best. For Pointer and previous winner inch Mala at Ludow. He has a weath of experience to raid on and a reproduction of the Ludow nin would be good enough. Thus fortune won a maiden on the opening day of last season and wasn't seen again until minding winner of a statistion of the restricted at Erw Lin 18 days ago. This gridy-raced seven-year-old would appear to have more scope than most of these. Teathed-er won five trans between the flags in 1985 and his second in a continual at Landow month gives him every chance of place money again. Selection: CAPE COTTAGE. 3.10 CROKTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £3,388

3.40 HOLYWELL SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,337

24503-5 SMERAD VERTURE (19) IF Crons 16 120 - 120 Cross 16 12 Cross 16 12

KEL50

KELSO
2.00: 1. COMEN CAPER & Calegran
15.2: 2. Arthur Bed 5-1; 2. Bermon Neights
3-1 for 8 con. 3/1. 5. If Watcon, York, Total
67: 20; 21: 90, 51: 90, 51: 10. OF: 510: 90.
2.90: 1. ESTABLISH (A Thombur) 50-1;
2. Achigure Demons 2.2 for 2. Riverst 5-1;
45 mm. (2. 2) Dodds, Armick). Total
500: 20: 45: 40; £1: 30. £1: 30. OF: £34: 90.
CSF: \$76: 54. Total
188. 1.00: 1 REAL TONIC (P Carbony) 11-10

Tay 2. Most Pagement 9-1; 3. Cardinal Stores 100-1. 8 inst. 11. dist. KG Richards. Geographics: Pages £2.00; £1.00, £4.10. DF:

Gripholes: Paper 22 00: £1.00, £4.10. DF: £5.10. CSF. £8.67.

3.3c £ £962. WE SHOUS (P. Jourson) 10-1; 2. Handligh Stalles 5-2; 3. Parsons Boy 7-2. E mis. 11.6 for Coult Metody (unseason one). His 24. U Wade. Feryfria). Total £11.00; £5.50, £1.40. DF: £18.30. CSF. £29.90. MR; Act The Wag.

4.00c £-106500 BES HOUTES of Carbon, 10.64 for, 2. Last Shalles 25-1; 3. Bladding Danne 25-1; 5 mm. 5-5, 3. 60 foctored to grant for the could be shall be a first could be shall be could be could be shall be could be could be shall be could be shall be could be

4.30:1. LAGEN RRIPGE (D.) McRet) 2-7

2a; 2. Castle Revi 1.4: 3. Pestian Grange
100.1. 3 tan. 9.5: (D. McRet), Carmet). Rote:
£1.0.9. Comparis Straight Process:
£10.90. Comparis Straight Process:
£10.50. Comparis Straight Process:
£10.50. Comparis Straight Process:
£1.20. Mars M Reveire,
£2. Saltouri, Tabet £1.70: £1.10. £3.10.
£1.470. CSF: £9.87.
Placepot: £63.90. Quadque £29.80.
Place &: £19.63. Place 5: £9.37.
£150.CSFE

LEICESTER 2-20: 1 TEFION NEIL (AM B Policely 11-10 fee; 2. Cherry istand 10-1; 3. Up Fac Ransonne 50-1, 15 ran. 3, 3%. (Mse C Seaf-des). Total: 52-30; £1-50; £4-20; £1-3.90. Dual Forecast: £1-3.20. Computer Straight Forecast: £10-34. Trice £205-30. NR: Teda-rocks.

Process: 1.30.34, III.

2.50: 1. EASTERN RIVER (Mr R Thornton)
4.7 fav. 2. Delikos 25-1: 3. Prize Match
14-1.9 mm. 5, Ind. (7 Forster), Totar £1.40;
£1.10. £3.50. £2.20. Df. 16: £5.60. CSF.
£18.20. The art. £100.86. This £25.60.
3.20: 1. TRIFAST IAD (Mr Placking) 5-1:
3. Manodia Depress 15-8 fav. 3. Basarian 4-1.
§ mm. 2. 3%. (M. Roberts), Totar £5.70;
£2.20, £2.20. Df. £6.50. CSF. £14.36.

RACING RESULTS 3.50: 1. HIGHLANDMAN (Mr Chris Wiscon)
66-1; 2. Peojade 25-1; 3. Gien Oak 20-1
7 mm. 7-4 fav Corner Boy 44th. ½, 2½, U
Heldane). Tothe: E43.70: £13.40, £3.70. DF:
£50.90. CSF: £839.60.
4.20: 1. COPPER THISTIC (Mr R Humbell)
13-2; 2. Emoure 9-4 jr tar; 3. Mithchelle Best.
13-2; 2. Emoure 9-4 jr tar; 3. Mithchelle Best.
61. 9 mm. 9-4 jr tar; 3. Mithchelle Best.
10-1; 7. Tete: £6.60; £2.80; £1.60; £1.10. Duel
Forteast: £3.00. Computer Streight Forecast:
(19.22, Thu: £6.00.

PURCOSSI: 2.134. ACMINARY SURREY FORCASS: £1.9.2. This: £6.00.

A.50: 1.A WHATY CHIZZEN (Mr A Sarsoms)
5-2 jt fav; 2. Nowhisid 8-1; 3. Conty Special 9-2; 13 ran. 5-2 jt fav Beau Dandy (4th).
2. 4. (Mr C Hicks). Tota: £4.00; £2.50, £5.00, £1.20. Dual Forcass: £14.80. Computer Sureit Forcass: £21.51. This: £33.50. MR: Minemagnies.
124.919.85 carried toward to Bangor today. Placeport: £1.214.40. Quadrot: £33.50. Place 9: £211.20. Place 8: £144.20.

LINGFIELD

LINGS IE. D

2.10: 1. ENGER TO PLEASE (D Holsond)
100-30 for 2. Binne Magic 7-2; 3. Spending
Edge 11-2. B rain. 11/4. nl. (Miss G Kellewey, Whitpornho). Tetrs: (23.50; £1.10, £1.70. Dark forecast £7.70. Computer Straight Furnoust: £12.91. NR: Châng. Tho: £10.90.

2.40: 1 CAPTAIN'S DAY (R Mulen) 5-4 2.40: 1. CAPTAINTS DAY (R Mulen) 5-4 tax: 2. Dispost 16-1; 3. Mismoss 16-18 tax. 2/h, 1/h, (H Cobingridge, Newmorket). Tota: £2.50; £1.10. £3.80. £3.40. DF: £15.20. CSF: £20.64. Interse: £192.58. 3.10: 1. HBH FIVE (G Bardwell) 9-1 tax; 2. Cotaridge; 1-2. 9 tax. 3/k, 5/m 4/l. R ingam, Fister: tox). Tota: £3.40; £1.50, £1.60, £1.50. DF: £23.10. CSF: £33.51. Threat: £28.70. This: £3.80. NN: Broughout Formula.
3.40: 1. LIVE PROJECT (D Holand) 11.4; 2. Royal Carlton 5-2 fax; 3. Robellion 3-1 7 tax. NS. 5. (M Johnston, Middleram). Totae

7 ran. NK, 5. (M Johnston, Middlefram). Total: £4.00; £2.00, £1.40. Dual Forecast: £4.10. CSF: £9,49, 4_10: 1, RI CHI SAGA (R Hughes) 16-1: 4.10: 1, NI CRI SAGA (R RUFFRES 15-1: 2 Teleparata 3-1 ft for 3, Peritoes Phight 100-30, 8 rate, 3-1 ft for Rave (4th), 2%, str. nd. (M Madgeck, Dermead). Total (25; 90; 93-20, £1.90, £1.10, DF: 26-40, CSF: 860-60.

4.40: 1, ENGLISH INVADER (Mr 1 McCorte 5: 1-2 Reads Fram Brooks 5: 1-3 Reads Fra

4.40: 1. ENGLISH INVADER (NY 1 MC-Carty) 5-1; 2. Don't Drop Bombs 16-1; 3. Heighth Of Fame 7-1, 10 ran, 3-1 fav Lok. 4, 3. (C Owyer, Newmarket). Tota: 57.00; 52.30, 51.80, 51.80. OF: 579.80. CSF. 580.54. Treast: 5528.26. Tric: 584.40. Praceput: 528.30. Quadqot: 521.90. Place 6: 526.77, Place 5: 518.04.

th	theithre Heart, 10-1 Externit Sea, Flasco, 15-1 others		
2	25	BEAUFORD PLC NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m	
ĺ	56-0611	LAST TRY (77) (CD) B Roswell 6 12 0 E Calleghan (3)	
•	/40030-	ALLERSY (305)) Goulang 3 11 0	
ı		HUDITING SLAVE (46) C Grant 5 11 0 P Never	
•	0-05	MELBREDG Mys (20) P Caker 5 11 0T Rest	
,	0	PRAISE BE (FR) (12) T lose 7 11 0	
,	05	ROMAN DISTRICT (11) V Thompson 5 11 0 Mr M Thompson	
•	-	UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA M Berby 5 11 0 A Dobbie	
,	21	CLIMBRIAN MAESTRO (B) (CD) T Esserby 4 10 13 R Contido	
•	0-00	PENNY PEPPERMENT (20) R Barr 5 10 9	
O	04/00£	THREE ADE (333) F Marphy 9 10 9	
1	. 0	OMERSMAN (SIS) J Fosseriol 4 10 6	
12	0	RESPECTING (88)) Moore 4 10 6	
З		QUEEN'S COUNSES, Mass M Maligari 4 10 1	
		- 13 declared -	
ETTING 4-5 Cumbrise Moestro, 6-1 Last Try. 7-1 Oversman, 8-1 Us			
Ľ		when 16.1 Shorts Turnblade, 20-1 others	

	3.00	PYTCHLEY ECHO NOVICE HUNTER CHAS (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m 1f 110yd
	MMGU3-	ADMISSION (305) Mrs S Honer Hater 7 12 0. Miles L Homer (
	2F/FP-	BETWE HOUSE (291) W Warner 9 12 0
		BOULEVARD BAY THE FOOD 6 12 0 Mr N Wisco !
	2-	ENSTRANCS WILLIGHT (284) J Staveley 8 12 0 . No T Miorison (
	00/004-	GALZIG (355) Mrs D Turner 9 12 O
,	(0.035-0)	GREENHOUNT LAD (693) / Contant 9 12 Dlitr P Contlotts (
	322.2F	MAGRIE MESSENGER (12) T George 9 12 Q Miss 5 Summorth (
		POLITICAL SAM DESmen 8 12 0
i	QP/	SIR HARRY RINGS (2793) F Munage 11, 12 0 . Mr R Hale (
٥		SAYIN NOWT K Anderson 9 11 9 Mr A Parker (
		- 10 declared -

BETTING: 3-1 Boslevard Ruy, 7-2 Political Sam, 5-1 Swyin Nout, Mobile Measenger, 8-1 Gobie, Adudexion, 14-1 Eastlands Hi-Light, 16-1 others

5.00	LANE, CLARK & PEACOCK OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m
	BOSTON BOMBER 9 Woodhouse 5 11 2 P Carberry
	EASEY BLUE (22) 5 hetherel 5 11 2 P Neven
3 RD4	EASTICLEFFE (29) \(\frac{1}{2}\) Microsom 5 11 2
4	GOING PRINTINE ! Hetherton 5 11 2
5	ROYAL CHEP Mes M Mogan 5 11 2 N Horrocks (7)
6	STANNICK HALL Mes S Williamson 5 11 7 J Supple
7	WHITE LASS F Noty 5 10 11 W Deem
	1 2 5 3 R04 4 5

2. ____P Carberry

BETTING: 7-4 Kerieli, 3-1 Eastly Bine, 7-2 Eastleiffe, 6-1 Boston Bornber, 12-1 Going Primitive, 14-1 Rayel Chip. 20-1 Staumick Hell, 25-1 others

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.50 Bold Habit 2.20 Marjorle Rose 2.50 Perfect Poppy 3.20 Don Sebastian 3.50 Nikita's Star 4.20 Northern Fan 4.50 Needle Match

GOING: Standard. STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m 4f.
Fibresand, left-hand, coal course.
Course is No town on A449. ADMISSION: Club \$15: Tattersalls 56 (CAP members of Disancoal Unit \$4): Viewing Restantion \$25,90 including entrance and meal. CAR PARE: free.

BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: Steel 'Em (1.50); North Arthur (1)-

acrel, Efficacions (4.29).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Little Bur & Mustang (2.20)
won here, Saurdey, Northern Fan (4.20) won at Southwell, Priday.
LONG-DEFANCE BURNERS: Another Nightmure (4.50), Natasunt (2.20) & Bout (2.50) bare been son 254 miss by it McKellar 1.50 SANDSTORM AMATEURS HANDICAP

| 1.50| | SANDSTORM AMATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS G) (DW 1) 52.375 added 67 | 1.1501 | 1.884 (REPRECIS) (CD) P. Durdel 81 | 1.84 F RESIDENT 5 8 | 2.05833 | RESERT MANDER (B) (CD) D. Crayman 6 11 2. Miss R. Clash 3 | 6.0060 | 1.845 (R. Clash 2) | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

2.20 SANDSTORM AMATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS G) (DIV II) £2,375 added 61

(CLASS G) (DIV 8) £2,375 accided 67
13:801 LITTLE BERR (4) (DI) P Euros 6 12:0 Tree. Litt A Brains (4) 3
00:000- MNSSANT (109) (b) R Moletar 4 11:6 Jims C Williams (4) 5
00:000- MNSSANT (109) (b) R Moletar 4 11:6 Jims C Williams (4) 5
022:654 MRRIGHE ROSE (22) (DI) A Brainy 4 11:0 Jims R Braintone (4) 6
00:000- MNSSANT (50 JIM R R Guest 5 10:13 Jims 2 Braintone (4) 7
00:000- MNSSANT (50 JIM R R Guest 5 10:13 Jims 2 Braintone (4) 7
00:000- MRSSANT (6) MAR N HERCARD (7) 4 JIMS D GREAT JUNES (8) 7
00:000- MRSS J JUNES (8) MAR N HERCARD (9) 7 JIMS C PROMOTE (6) 9
00:000- MRSSANT (6) MRSSANT (6) 9 10 JIMS V ROMOTE (6) 9
00:000- MRSSANT (6) MRSSANT (6) 9 10 JIMS V ROMOTE (6) 9
00:000- MRSSANT (6) MRSSANT (6) 9 10 JIMS V ROMOTE (6) 9
00:000- MRSSANT (6) MRSSANT (6) 9 10 JIMS V ROMOTE (6) 9
00:000- MRSSANT (6) MRSSANT (6) MRSSANT MR

10 444001 MUSTANG (4) (2) C Tromon 4 9 1 (7e) ... Mrs L Pearce 2 1 - 10 deciand ETTING 3-1 Little Box, 7-2 hissing, 5-1 Marjorie Rose, 7-1 Dancis
Sions, 8-1 Lochon, Dream Carrier, 10-1 others

2.50 TEMPEST MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D £4,900 added 1m 100yds 08- BD85 (158) R McMcNar 3 B 1

34. PERFECT POPPY (116) J Fanstance 3 8 1.......... Herrison 1 - 9 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Sword Arm, 5-2 Perfect Pappy, 6-1 Venice Beach, 8-1 Only Josh, 12-1 Little Acora, 14-1 Krusson, 26-1 others

3.20 CYCLONE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000

.501	1m 4f Penalty Value £5,472
	1m 4f Penalty Value £5,4/2
562002-	LECONATO (FR) (124) P D Ears 5 10 0 D Grandes (5)
10006-0	MAJOR CHANGE (1.7) Mes G helicary 5 9 3 It Fallon
4-11178	CHEMIA CASTLE (14) (C) (D) P (252m) 4 8 13 P 60000 (7)
14331.1	LEADANG SPIRIT (14) (CD) C Wal 5 8 13 5 Demosic
4-102-35	SECOND COLDURS (7) (C) M Pice 7 8 11 Martin Dayer (3
1125-13	HILL FARM DANCER (7) (CD) W Bristourie 6 8 7 A Bond (7)
0001-21	ALBANA (54) (D) I Barks 186
01-5422	HECTA'S STAR (1A) (CO) D Murray Smith 4 8 1 . A Daly (S
3115-40	MONTECRISTO (35) (D) R Guest 4 7 10 Brandill (5)
	- 9 decimed -
UMB: 3-4	Leading Spirit, 7-2 Albaha, 5-1 Leonato, 7-1 White's St
China Ca	stie, HDE Perfo, Designer, 12-1 ordners
China Ca	stie, HDE Perfo, Designer, 12-1 ordners
China Ca	stie, HDE Perfo, Designer, 12-1 ordners
.20	ste, Hill Parm Dancer, 12-1 omers BLIZZARO SELLING STAKES (CLASS (£2,875 addied 1m 1f 79yds
20	stie, Hill Parm Dascer, 12-1 coners BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (CLASS (£2,875 added 1m 1f 79yds NORTHERN FAN IS) ICO N Torks 594 Dean McReuw
20 0-00531 100-110	stie, Hill Perm Gescer, 12-1 conget BLIZZARO SELLING STAKES (CLASS (£2,875 added 1m: 1f 75yds NORTHERN FAM (5) FQ N Toker 59 4
20 0-00531 100-110 2-26461	Stie, Hill Parts Dascer, 12-1 conget BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (CLASS (£2,875 added 1m 1f 79yds HORRISSO FAN (5) IC N Torker 5.9 4
20 0-00531 100-110 2-36461 000-602	SID. HIS Farm Dascer, 12-1 consers BLIZZARO SELLING STAKES (CLASS C £2,875 acided 1m 1f 79yds BANKIS (S) (CD) (BF) N Tolks 594
20 0-00533 100-110 2-26461 000-602 0680-60	stle, Hill Parm Dascer, 12-1 contert BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (CLASS (£2,875 added 1m 1f 75yds NORTHESEN FAN (5) IC) N Toller 5 9 4
20 0-00533 100-110 2-26461 000-602 0680-60	stle, Hill Parm Dascer, 12-1 contert BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (CLASS (£2,875 added 1m 1f 75yds NORTHESEN FAN (5) IC) N Toller 5 9 4
0-0633 100-130 2-36461 000-602 0680-60 0000-90 30606-0	SIDE, HIS FARM DISSION, 12-1 CHINGS STAKES (CLASS OF \$2,2875 acided 1m 1f 79yds ELIZARD SELLING STAKES (CLASS OF \$2,2875 acided 1m 1f 79yds EMPTHERM FAM [5] IC) N Trivier 594 Dean McMenne SADUSI [5] (CD) (BT) M Carractro 594 L Channod SOLDER COVE (LL) M Made 794 D Successy [57 FLASSTAFF (IDSA) [12] N Burke 48 12 P McCabe (3) 5 AMDESTY BAY (21) M 19her 58 7 C Region DAVID MMTST GRIL [9] (1) A Bailey 58 7 G Faulistier [6]
0-00531 100-110 2-26461 000-602 0660-60 0000-00 30605-0	SILE, HIS FARM BASCAT, 12-1 CHINET BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (CLASS OF \$2,875 added 1m 1f 78yds NORTHERN FAM IS) IC) N Toker 59 4
0-00531 100-110 2-36461 000-602 0680-60 30605-0 30605-0 000-460	SIDE, HIS FARM DISSION, 12-1 CHINGS STAKES (CLASS OF \$2,2875 acided 1m 1f 79yds ELIZARD SELLING STAKES (CLASS OF \$2,2875 acided 1m 1f 79yds EMPTHERM FAM [5] IC) N Trivier 594 Dean McMenne SADUSI [5] (CD) (BT) M Carractro 594 L Channod SOLDER COVE (LL) M Made 794 D Successy [57 FLASSTAFF (IDSA) [12] N Burke 48 12 P McCabe (3) 5 AMDESTY BAY (21) M 19her 58 7 C Region DAVID MMTST GRIL [9] (1) A Bailey 58 7 G Faulistier [6]
	562007- 10006-0 4-11124 14331-1 4-10235 1125-13 0001-21 01-5422 3115-40

- 10 declared -BETTEVS: 11-4 Northern Ren, 7-2 Soldier Cove, 4-1 Sersel, 6-1 Flagst 8-1 Flaba, 10-1 David James' Girl, 12-1 North Auter, 18-1 others

¥	
19	MONSOON HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,30
1	4.50 MONSOON HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,30 added 5f
	200-242 MADRINA (14) / Berry 4 10 0
7	006-003 SHADOW JURY (26) (CD) D Chapman 7 9 12 1 Chamnock 4
В	235406- SONGSHEET (137) (D) M Sounders 4 9 11
æ	
-	2-35126 SELA HIGH (14) (CD) III Meade 498 D Sweamey (5)
	(R3652 FENTHERSTONE LANE (4) (CD) Mes 1 Sectal 69 1 D R McCabe :
•	2055-44 BONICLEFFE CRANKE (SI (DBF) D Cropman 58 13 A Culture
3)	25-31:56 ALM2 (12) (CD) Miss G Kelleway 7 8 11
	046454 BOFFY (4) (CD) B Baugh 4 S 11
.3	IO 3-11000 SOTOMAN (HOLI (LA) (CD) P Februe 489 I Branchill (5
5	0-22030 THICK AS THEVES (20) (D) R Transpoon 5.87 D Demby (7.
4	2 (140000 DEMONNY (181) Mess I, Sokrat 5 7 10
Б	13 60-0000 MAYSTAP (5) 8 Baugh 4 7 10 Deir Glacen
g	= 13 declared -
	underson weight 7m 10m. True weights: Deardow 7st 9th. Maysimp 7st 7
£9	BUILD WESTE (FE THE) LIFE MORAGE CARDON (2) Set WANTED LT (

RETTRG: 4-1 Mediton, 5-1 Featherstone Lane, 5-1 Shadow Jury, 7-1 Neo-die Match, 8-1 Thick As Thioves, Gl La High, 10-1 others

Coulthard

United generate expectant tingle

The daffodils are out in Manchester and with them the promise of spring. Old Trafford, although unblemished by vellow petals, will be suffused with this seasonal expectancy tonight.

It is not just the occasion -the ground's first European Champions' Cue qu' ter-final since the 1960s - but the timing which has generated the tingie of anticipation.

Three months ago, when Manchester United were paired with Porto, there was a sense of foreboding at Old Trafford. By their standards. United were languishing in the Premiership and fortunate to have survived in Europe. Porto were already on course for a third successive domestic title and, in Europe,

they had humbled Milan. But a cleansing winter in Manchester has been matched by a murky one in Porto. Even coneern over an ankle injury to Roy Keane cannot dim the dreams of a United team which is now four points clear in the Premiership. Porto, although even further clear in their league, have become assailed by fears.

Against weak opposition, the team have taken one point from the last six, but that is the least of their worries. The club

itself is facing disgrace.
The last thing Porto's chairman, Jorge Pinto da Costa, wanted to see when he arrived in England this week was headlines about match-rigging. He has enough of those at home where

he is at the centre of a scandal. Briefly, Da Costa, who recently resigned as the head of the body which appoints Portuguese referces, is accused of systematically bribing and intimidating the officials. One of cation, Costa does not deny bethe allegations, all of which he ing a firm tackler and his denies, concerns a holiday. It encounter with Eric Cantona is

Glenn Moore looks forward to tonight's European

Cup quarter-final

arranged by the travel agent brother of Antonio Oliveira, the current Porto manager, and

taken by a referee.
There is also a European angle, a piquant one in the cirrumstances. Da Costa has been accused, by the president of another Portuguese club, of brib-ing the Romanian referee of another European quarter-final, 12 years ago, in the European Cup-Winners' Cup. The opponents were Aberdeen, the man-

ager Alex Ferguson. Porto won. Uefa, the sport's European governing body, has taken an interest in the allegations and in Portugal there is such disen-chantment with the game one group of prominent intellectuals renounced Portuguese foothalf and declared they would henceforth follow Barcelona.

This is the backdrop to Porto's arrival in Manchester. Yet they cannot be underestimated. Their players are capable of winning without any help from referees. One key figure is Mario Jardel, the Brazilian who would be at Ibrox had Rangers managed to secure a work per-mit. Quick with his feet and powerful in the air, he is the Portuguese League's leading scorer and struck twice in the San

Siro when Porto beat Milan. The other central figure is Jorge Costa, who achieved international notoriety when he was head-butted by George Weah in the group stage. Cos-

There is a Slovenian, Zlatko Zahovic, a Yugoslav, Ljubinko Drulovic, and a clutch of other Brazilians. They include Artur, who matched Jardel's four Champions' League goals, Aloisio, Lula, and Edmilson. There could have been a sixth Brazilian on show, but Emerson left Porto for Middlesbrough in the summer. One wonders what he is thinking as he prepares, instead, to play Derby in tonight's relegation scrap at the Riverside.

Keane, whose consistency shames Emerson, is "doubtful" Ferguson said after his fitness test yesterday. "I hoped he would have done better," Ferguson said. "It did not go as well as we wanted. We will given him every chance,

With Nicky Butt already ruled out, the feeling is that Keane will start the first leg with Ronny Johnsen alongside, while, up front, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will be preferred to

Fer suson has reminded his team that in Europe opponents can be at their most dangerous when the ball is near their own goal. The lesson appears to be sinking in, with Ryan Giggs saying: "A lot of the European sides like Porto are counterattacking teams, so you have got to be careful about giving the ball away."

The last Old Trafford European Cup quarter-final was against Rapid Vienna in 1908-69. United, defending the title they had won against another Portuguese side. Benfica, won 3-0. A repeat is unlikely, but if Unit-ed can keep the tempo high and the back door shut, they should travel to Oporto in a fortnight with something to defend.

Manchester United (probable): Schmechet:
G Naville, Pallister, May, Irwin, Beckham,
Johnsen, Keane, Giggs, Cantona, Solsiquer.



aims to become the UK's No 1 driver Exit Damon Hill, enter David Coulthard. That, at least, is the way it would seem and the way the latter would have it. Hill's unceremonious shunting into Formula One's sidings means the drivers champi-onship will change hands this year. So, too, will the torch of the United Kingdom's leading Now that may smack of being dammed with faint praise in an arena where we are told only winning counts, but the tag

of the nation's No I is much coveted. It bolsters the ego, carries kudos and wields com-mercial clout. It can also generate the kind of momentum that conveyed Hill, and Nigel Mansell before him, all the way to the world title.

It does not take a bright 25year-old to work that out, but since Coulthard has intelligence and youth on his side, he might well be able to make the most of this opportunity.

He will also be aware that his first concern must be to match and then beat his team-mate at McLaren-Mercedes, the Finn, Mika Hakkinen. Few question Hakkinen's pace or courage, but some wonder about his judgement. Others wonder about Coulthard.

One team boss sugg cently. "It's not going to hap-pen for him, and if he gets blown away by Hakkinen, which I believe will happen, Coulthard's history.

That is how brutal it is in Formula One. However, another senior team of-

prepared to be med, Patrick Head, the technical director of Williams, envisages the possibility of a different

ficial, who is

scenario. worked with the cot in 1994 and 1995 and once declared his "dream team" to be Michael

Schumacher Coulthard: Competitive car and Coulthard, said. I don't necessarily see it new to me anyway. You going all Mika's way. If this McLaren is quick, and the indications are that it may be, then

it wouldn't surprise me if David was quicker than Hakkinen." He explained that Coultbard preferred a quicker, "truer" car to one which was unpredictable. and undermined his confi-

dence. Winter testing has encouraged Coulthard to believe that the car, no longer bearing the colours of Mariboro but a silver livery and the name of their new sponsor, West, will be quick. "I wouldn't go so far as to say we have solved all our problems, but we have made

encouraging progress," is Coulthard's carefully balanced assessment. He feels less restrained by political correctness in conidering his relationship with Hakkinen. We're team-mates and there's no real problem in a working sense, but we're not friends and he makes no particular attempt to be friendly. That doesn't bother me. In fact,

I think it's a bit of a compliment. It means he respects me. "He is highly regarded and certainly he's quick. But even in my first season for the team. last year, when I was rather in-consistent. I made considerable progress on him and, overall, was only about two-tenths of a second down on him. I know I

can improve on that." Head goes on to say: 'McLaren may win a race, but I'd be surprised if they won the championship." That appears to be the consensus of opinion within the sport. Coulthard does not argue, yet is not pre-

back in spotlight Before the start of the Formula One season in Melbourne on Sunday, Derick Allsop talks to the Scot who

> ing race in Melbourne, to lower his sights. He said: "You have to go into the season aiming for the championship and believing that is possible. Sure, the Williams will still be good, Benetton will be strong, and Michael Schumacher will get the best out of the Ferrari. But anything can happen." Not, though, a successful

pared, before Sunday's open-

championship defence by Hill. "No. I can't see Damon being able to do that," Couldhard said. So we come to the question of national succession. Johnny Herbert is stuck in the middle lane with Sanber, even if he does have Ferrari power this season, and, as Eddie Irvine is not allowed to overtake Schumacher, the UK title is there

for Coulthard's taking.
"Toat's the situation and the responsibility I relish," he said. 'Tm a proud Scot and a proud Brit, and it would be an honour to fly the flag for the

whole country.
"Both Damon and Nigel have enjoyed the privilege and advantage of that position. You draw on the support and undoubtedly it gives you lift. I am sure that helped carry them to their championships and I liked to think it could eventually help me in the same way. Hopefully, the car will be competitive enough to make that possible and I will be able to

respond. Of course it means more pressure when you have not only your team but your coun-

try looking for you to produce the goods, but it ensures there is no complacency. Some-times when you are not in

form can dip tyou need a kick up the backside.

"I'm not afraid of pressure and it's nothing

couldn't have a much higher level of pressure than I had when I first came into Formula One and was put into the car left by the best driver in the world.

"I couldn't fill Ayrton Senna's shoes, but the spotlight was on me and I believe I came through that reasonably well By the end of the following season Pd got my first grand prix win and was quicker than Damon."

His first season with McLaren took him out of the spotlight, while Hill went on to dain the championship. Another season, another ball game. And, he would have you believe, another Coulthard.

He said: 'I honestly feel better prepared for this season than any in the past. I've worked at my fitness, trained really hard and feel I have so much energy. I really am eager to get on with it now.

"Until we actually start racing we can't know exactly ere we are in relationship with the other teams, but I certainly believe we won't be too far away from the best.

"My goal is to be in a position to win races and start winning them on a regular basis. If you do that then you don't have to worry about the cham-

pionship, because that will come along anyway. But for now all I want and need to think about is racing at the front, and showing I can compete with these guys, because when the lights go out I genuinely believe I can run with the best and beat the best."

Schumacher a 'prima donna'

Ron Walker, chairman of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, labelled Michael good-looking prima donna yesterday in the acrimonious build-up to Sunday's grand prix

on holiday in Queensland. did not respond to Walker's inrade.

21 expect better from a excess of \$30m [£19m] a year, than to blame our world-class circuit with six passing spots

Schumacher had been

Zidane anticipates fjord fiesta Burns confident of

Rosenborg Trondheim, who qualified for tonight's quarterfinal of the European Cup at the expense of Millan, may yet prove a hogev team for Italian clubs bardo. The availability of the but the Norwegian part-timers French midfielders partly comhold no fears for the Juventus pensates Juventus for the injurymidfielder Zinedine Zidane.

"Resemborg shouldn't be too big a problem." the Frenchman said on the eve of the first leg. "With all due respect, if we play to our best then we'll prove the hetter side and go through. At the moment. I think Juventus are the best team in Italy... and perhaps also in Europe. Few observers would argue

with such confidence. The Serie A leaders approach the match in Trondheim in buoyant mood. seven points clear of domestic rivals Internazionale and Parma. Zidane, who missed Juve's 2-0 league win over Vicenza on

Saturday, returns to the side Trond Egil Soltvedt - have all re- Matthias Sammer, ruled out along with compatriot Didier Deschamps to replace Alessio Tacchinardi and Attilio Lomfirst-choice strikers, Alessandro Del Piero and Alen Boksic.

Michele Padovano and Christian Vieri play in their stead. Juventus are holstered at the back by the return of their firstchoice goalkeeper. Angelo Peruzzi, who missed the club's last

two league games. Rosenborg prepared for the tie in Cyprus, where they won two matches and drew one. They have no injury or suspension problems but several players -Jon Olav Hjelde, Roar Strand, Bent Skommelsrud, Harald Bratthakk Biorn Otto Bragstad and

ceived yellow cards.

Meanwhile, the Borussia Europe's player of the year, sus-Dortmund coach, Ottmar tained heavy bruising in Ger-Meanwhile, the Borussia Hitzfeld, has warned the club's many's friendly with Israel in Tel fans and players against underestimating Auxerre, the Gerenforced absence of the man champions opponents in another of tonight's European Cup quarter-finals.

Hitzfeld expressed surprise yesterday that the first-leg match was not yet a sell-out. The difficulty of our task is being totally underestimated in Dortmund. Hitzfeld said. "I can't understand the fans who are leaving

us in the lurch now." The coach rates the French champions highly, despite the fact they are having a poor season. Auxerre lie seventh in the league and were knocked out of the French Cup on Friday. Dortmund will be without

with a calf injury. The libero, Aviv last week. He missed Dortmund's 4-1 Bundesliga win over

has been told to rest for 10 days. Hitzfeld is also deprived of the captain. Michael Zorc, because of suspension, and Julio Cesar and Steffen Freund through injury.

Auxerre must do without the striker Steve Marlet and defender Franck Rabarivony, who are both sidelined with injuries. But the main concern of the coach, Guy Roux, is the form of midfielders, Moussa Saib and Sabri Lamouchi. "We've got a real playing problem." Roux said. "We need the playmakers to return to form."

halting Rangers' run have a real chance because we have players who can score goals and we believe we can bear

Tommy Burns yesterday insisted Celtic can put an end to a nine-match run against Rangers without a win - six defeats and any team in this country." three draws over the last 22

months The Celtic manager believes his side will win tomorrow's Tennents Scottish Cup quarterfinal at Parkhead, "Never once in the past two seasons have we been outplayed in these games," he insisted

"If anything, we've outplayed Rangers on several occasions and only the brilliance of Brian Laudrup or Paul Gascoigne, or our defensive errors, have

been decisive. We have not defended properly against Rangers in the past and we must defend properly on

Burns will leave it late to name his side, but Enrico An-

May 1995.

noni looks like filling the rightback position as he plays in an Old Firm match for the first time after his arrival from

Burns has enjoyed just two

victories from 13 games against

Rangers during his Parkhead

management, with the last a

3-0 success at Hampden on 7

Richard Gough is giving Rangers cause for concern because of a calf injury, and Walter Smith is already without Paul Gascoigne, Sebastian Rozental

O'Neill. But there are crucial

battles facing Nottingham For-

est, Southampton and Mid-

dlesbrough, three of the four

sides languishing at the bottom

The goalkeeper Mark Cross

Thursday night. If we do we'll

and Stuart McCall.

May replace Reed

The Football Association yesterday admitted it would replace the referee Mike Reed for next week's Premiership match be-tween Chelsea and Leicester if asked to do so by police.

Reed caused anger among

Leicester supporters when he awarded a disputed late penalty to Cheisea in last week's FA Cup fifth-round tie between the clubs and his car was attacked on the way home to Birmingham. Police are concerned about possible repercussions and the safety of Reed in the return League game, although they

have no power to order a change of match official. The FA says it has had no formal request either. Part of the area normally allocated for away fans at Stamford Bridge is in the vicinity of the players' tunnel and Reed's safety could be put in jeopardy.

Football

7,30 unless stated

QUARTER-FINALS FIRST-LEG Ajox v Alletico Madrid

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Chelsea v Blackburn (7.45)
Leicester v Aston Villa (7.45)
Middlesbrough v Derby (7.45)
Notim Porest v Sheffield Wed (7.45)

HVISRAN Ister City v Portsmouth (7.45)...,

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

on Rovers v Allos

FUROPEAN CUP

Steve Double, a spokesman for the FA, said: "We have had no formal request from the nolice - but should we have one we would obviously pay heed to any request regarding the safe-

ty aspect of things. If the police asked us to change the match official it would be likely that we

would heed their request." Leicester have raised no objection to Reed being in charge, although their manager. Martin O'Neill, had described the penalty award which led to Franck Leboeuf scoring Chelsea's winner deep into extra time as "disgraceful". O'Neill said: "It is not our place to make

the decision for the authorities." O'Neill also backed the stance taken by the game's governing body. Fifa, not to allow television-video evidence to help referees with difficult decisions – even though its use might mean his side were still in the FA Cup.

"On Wednesday I was absolutely furious at the decision but I would not like to see the game stopped and started all the time because of waiting to see videos of incidents. While it might have worked in our favour at Chelsea, it is not a good idea in my view.

UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First DI-

vision: Anandel v Selsey: Whitehawi v Langney Sports, John O'Hara League Cup fourth round: Salideon Utd v Hassocks (7,15).

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division

Camerbury City v Furness (7.45). UNLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Halam v Amold Town. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First DI-

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Sudbury Town v Hadleigh Utd (7.45). JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Christchurch v

PEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Durston Federation Browery v Consett; Whickham v Gusborough Town. PONTINS LEAGUE Presidor Division: Oxfham / Tranmere 17.0) (a) Stabitanige Calcul, First Division: Blackbool v Preston (7.0); Hud-densield v Sheffed Utd (7.0); Notts County Wolker 17.0); West Browsech v Sunderland

mier Division: Spaking v Minless Black-

Zenga to join Revolution in America

Walter Zenga, the former Internazionale and Italy goalkeeper, is to play in America's nationwide professional league. Major League Soccer, with

New England Revolution. The 37-year-old, currently with Padova, said yesterday that he had agreed a two-year contract with the Boston club.

Zenga will be joining up with another former Padova player, the American international defender Alexi Lalas. "I'm looking forward to a new experience. Zenga said.
Zenga spent 13 seasons with the Milan team before trans-

ferring to Sampdoria in 1994. He

joined Padova in Sene B last year.

One of the most experienced Italian goolkeepers, he won 58 caps with the national team.

Zenga has been preceded in America by other Italian veterans such as Roberto Donadoni and Giuseppe Galderisi. FIXTURES

v Danington (7.0); Walsad v Scuntnorpe (7.0); Wilson v Donnastor (7.0)

Wigon v Doncaster (7.0).

AVON (NSURANCE COMBINATION First
Division: Bournemouth v Mikiwall (2.0):
Charitron v Luton (2.0): Swindon v Bristol City
(2.0): League Capt Arsenal v Rometh (2.0): Also playing (not on coupons): Coven-ty City v Leicester City, Monday: Liverpool (2.0). League Cup: Arsenal «Nor Oxford Utd v Bastol Royers (7.30). I FA YOUTH CUP Fifth round: Leeds Lod v Tran FA Cup quarter-finals (not on coupons Rugby League

RUCBY LEAGUE Second Division; Brant tark (7.39). Rugby Union PRESENTATIVE MATCH: East Midands v Bar-nans (3.0) (at Northampton). CLUB MATCH: Royal Navy v Cambridge Uni-versity (6.0) (at US Portsmouth).

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leosser Riders v New-castle Eagles (8.0); London Towers v Crystal Palace (8.0).

Other sports BOWLS: English Women's National Indoor Championship (York)

Little's fear of Filbert Street sides in the Premiership comnine short of the safety target set by their manager, Martin

Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, is anticipating another cold reception when he returns to his former club. Leicester, for tonight's key Premiership game.

Little suffered the brickbats of City fans when he resigned at Filbert Street in November 1994 before moving to Villa Park as Ron Atkinson's successor a few days later. He was greeted with placards pro-claiming him as a "Judas" on the only other previous occasion he has taken Villa to Leicester. which was barely a fortnight af-

ter his appointment.
Little, who still lives in Leicestershire, said: "The reception I had last time was arguably as hot as anyone has ever had to endure in football and the ferocity of it surprised me. I still get a bit of stick now and then but time heals. I don't think the reception will be as hostile this time but I don't think all the Leicester City supporters will have forgotten the situation." With three of the top four

FA Carling Premiership

3 Sunderland v Manchester United ...,2

Narwich City v Port Vale

Leeds v Eventon.

First Division

Bolton v Swindon

10 Octord y West Brown

11 QPR v Haddersheid ...

12 Store v losmch....

13 Wokes v Tranmere

Second Division

15 Gillergham v Watford ..

peting in Europe this week, Villa are looking to cement their own claims for a Uefa Cup place after Sunday's crucial victory over Liverpool. Ten points from the last four matches has elevated Villa to fifth position, but Little is keen not to lose the advantage gained from beating

Little said: "The most important thing is to follow up re-sults like that one on Sunday. We know it will be a difficult game at Leicester for all sorts of different reasons but we want to get into that top four at some stage and achieve the place in Europe

we are looking for."

being replaced. Leicester, who again have doubts over Ian Marshall and Steve Claridge, are not looking

like relegation candidates. Sat-

urday's 3-1 win at Wimbledon

Villa will check on the fitness of Steve Staunton, who returned against Liverpool after a spell out with an ankle injury for the first 45 minutes before

ley returns after a one-match suspension for Forest's match against Sheffield Wednesday while the midfielder Ian Woan is still suspended. Chris Bart-Williams and Kevin Campbell are ruled out through injury. Middlesbrough, who take on

Derby County at the Riverside in a dress rehearsal for Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final at the Baseball Ground, welcome back the defenders Nigel Pearson and Curtis Fleming after injury. Derby's veteran central defender, Paul McGrath, who has been rested for the last two matches, may be recalled.

Southampton, heartened by their 1-0 victory at Newcastle at the weekend, face Everton.

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST 39 Telford v Slough...... 40 Welling v Macdestield Tennents Scottish Cup fifth round (not on coupons): Falkirk v Rasth, Morton v Kil-marnock, Dundee Utd v Motherwell.

Bell's Scottish League (not on compons Premier Division: Hiberman v Dunferm line, First Division: Paruck v Airdne, Second Division 41 Ayr v Queen of the South .. 42 Clyde v Stranger.... 43 Dumbarton v Berwick . 44 Livingston v Stenhousemuir .

Also playing (not on coupons): Hami-ton v Brechin. Third Division 45 Allos v Albion Rover 46 Artyroath y Forfar 47 Montrose v East Stirling ... 48 Queen's Park v Inverness CT 49 Poss County v Cowdenbeath

Four draws: Oxford Utd v West Bromwich York v Blackpool, Mansfield v Cardiff, Clyde Five awaye: Manchester Utd, Crystal Palace Prentford, Carliste, Mocclesfield.

Nationwide Football League 27 Fulham v Scarborough Simingham v Souther 28 Hereford v Northampton 29 Lincoln v Hartlennot Bradford City v Gnmsby 30 Mansfield v Cardiff. Charlton v Crystal Palace . Manchester Cov v Didham ...

16 Luton v Millwelf

17 Notes County y Crew

20 Stockport v Bury ...

21 Walsali v Shren

23 York v Blackpool

Third Division

25 Chester v Barnet.

18 Plymouth v Rotherham

22 Wycombe v Bristol Rovers

24 Brighton v Leyton Onent.

Friday: Cambridge Utd v Coicheste **GM Vauxhali Conference** 35 Kidderminster v Halifax ... 36 Southport v Femborough 37 Stalybridge v Altimorium.

32 Sounthome v Cariste.

33 Swansea v Exeter

المكذا من الأصل

Schumacher as an overpaid in Melbourne. Walker began his verbal assault on the Ferrari driver world, he said.

on Monday after the German had apparently criticised the Albert Park circuit, Yesterday he appeared on Australian television backing his description of the double world champion who, he said, was scared of Jacques Villeneuve

title race. Schumacher, who is

sportsman of Schumacher's calibre, who I believe earns in -more than most tracks in the

quoted on Monday as saying the Albert Park track was "nothing special" and could be improved both with greater safety measures and better. of Canada winning this year's overtaking opportunities.

FA UMBRO TROPHY Third round replay: S: Leonards v Convyn Bay.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Division:
Certy Town v Routwell Town (7 45); Paget
Rangers v Schiud Borough. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divi-sions Camé Town v Chappentiam Town (7.45). Handoshed Utov Backwell Utov Westbury Unit-wild Divided Drawn 12.45.

CRICKET: England have to settle for tied one-day series as New Zealand dispense with captain Germon and promote Fleming

محدا من الأصل

Atherton content despite defeat

reports from Wallington New Zealand 228-8 England 200 New Zealand win by 28 runs

Michael Atherton insisted that was rewarded for two successive objectives had been achieved" in New Zealand, despite defeat in vesterday's fifth and final oneday international which meant that the series was tied 2-2.

The England captain regards the 2-0 victory in the Test series as the most important business of the tour and he emphasised that England did not actually lose the one-day series.
"New Zealand are a more

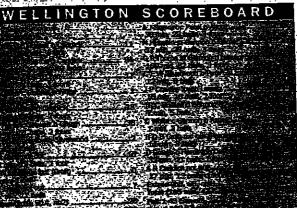
than capable one-day side," Atherton said. They fought back well after going 2-0 down and I must say we were feeling a bit tired at the end of a long whiter. When you are two up in series and you can't lose and

a little bit. That's not an excuse. It's a pretty disappointing end but generally things have gone well for us here. We'll go home

was rewarded for two successive displays and then batting in a one-day wins with the sack. The substandard fashion. Once wicketkeeper/batsman, who has again, they found the slow been captain in all 12 Tests he medium pace of Chris Harris has played since his debut in India late in 1995, becomes the first conceded only 22 runs from his New Zealand skipper to be dropped in mid-season since Jeff Crowe in 1988.

starts in Dunedin on Friday.

"There was a lot of soul searching and really it came down to form, which is the criteria we've tried to use through-



tendency is to step off the gas, out the season. That's the bot-

on a high rather than on a low." His counterpart, New Zea-

Germon has paid the price. for the Kiwis' defeat in the Test series. The convenor of selectors, Ross Dykes, named the 23year-old Stephen Fleming to lead the side in two Tests against Sri Lanka, the first of which

ish with 2 for 26.

ished his highly successful debut tour with another very competent spell.

At one stage New Zealand appeared to be heading for a total of around 250, but England never looked capable of matching their eventual score of 228 - even though Atherton enjoyed several moments of outrageous good fortune. He was bowled by a no-ball, from the second delivery of the imnings, and several times inside-edged just past his stumps and his strokes just short or wide of fielders. Atherton was eventually run

out after taking 82 balls to

tom line," Dykes said. England struggled to raise

their game at the Basin Reserve yesterday, bowling poorly in parts during New Zealand's 228 for 8, fielding scrappily in comparison with their recent 10-over spell, and also took the wicket of Nasser Hussain.

Gavin Larsen, who was New Zealand's other main bowling weapon, had John Crawley lbw for 11 and finally snuffed out England's hopes of victory by having Graham Thorpe stumped for 55. The Surrey lefthander was ninth out as he charged and swang in desperation. The man of the match, Nathan Astle, added to his innings of 94 by picking up the wickets of Jack Russell and Craig White in three balls to fin-

Crawley and Russell, who was playing only his eighth day's cricket in three and a half months, were drafted in as England reorganised their lineup because of Nick Knight's broken finger and Dominic Cork's hamstring strain.
Andy Caddick was the pick

of England's bowlers, although the off-spinner Robert Croft in-

Michael Atherton stands alone as New Zealand celebrate taking a wicket yesterday

make 43 and, after a failed ex- played a ball towards midwick- between the hard-hitting Dar- at the base of his left index finperiment to promote the York- et, he slipped when trying to ren Gough and Caddick enshire bowler, Chris Silverwood, turn back and the Glamorgan to No 5, the lower middle or-It seemed a sensible move at

After these setbacks, victory the time, but England were depended on Thorpe but, when fast running out of wickets and, gether by six screws. Knight was he charged down the pitch for a quick single, Croft having defiant last-wicket stand of 27

knuckle joint is being held toput under general anaesthetic England opener for the first to for the pinning of the knuckle weeks of the county season.

heavier margin of defeat.

Nick Knight's shattered

international. The healing

process is expected to take six

weeks, but Warwickshire fear

they could be without their

England opener for the first two

S Africa humbled by wrist of Warne

NEIL MANTHORP

South Africa 302 & 130 Australia 628-8 dec Australia win by an innings & 196 runs

The irresistible wrist spin bowling of Shane Warne and Michael Bevan yesterday brought an early conclusion for Australia on the final morning of the first Test with victory over South Africa by an innings and 196 runs. South Africa, 302 behind on

first innings, collapsed from their overnight 99 for 4 to 130 all out in just over an hour, losing the last five wickets for three runs in five overs. It was the first time South Africa had lost by an innings in 33 years. Warne removed the remain-

ing specialist batsmen, Jacques Kallis and Jonty Rhodes, to finish with 4 for 43 and Bevan polished off the rest of the innings for his tally of 4 for 32.

When the fifth-wicket pair Kallis and Rhodes resumed at the start of the day, they held firm for 10 overs until Rhodes was trapped leg before by Warne for eight. Shaun Pollock and Kallis were together for a further six overs before Warne bowled Kallis round his legs for the innings top score of 39, and from that point South Africa's destiny was sealed.

SOUTH AFRICA - First Innin Cronje 76, D J Richardson 72

SOUTH AFRICA

Fast-talking Boldon gets set to take Paris by storm However well Ato Boldon performs at this weekend's world indoor championships in Paris, he Mike Rowbottom detects the sound of that makes you like Rowbottom detects the sound of that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the start and saw a lifetime chance of the



door championships in Paris, he will be the talk of the town. And, as is his wont, Boldon - who is most likely to perform stunningly well-will do much of the talking himself. The 22-year-old from Trinidad

and Tobago, who came away from last summer's Olympics with bronze medals at 100 and 200 metres and the promise of even better things to come, talks like he runs. The words and ideas pour out with bewildering rapidity, the attitude veering between arrogance and diffidence. Having lived in the United States since 1988, Boldon is at ease with the kind of "conversation as therapy" so popular on that side of the Atlantic. But

Take his behaviour at the re-

cent indoor grand prix event in Birmingham, where he won the 60m and 200m in 6.49sec and 20.35, times that were respectively best equal and best in the world this year. Afterwards he pointed out that he had run so badly in his previous two indoor meetings this season that he had begun to wonder if he had what it took to run on the boards.

"I was beginning to think, maybe I'm an outdoor guy, maybe I'm getting complacent, maybe I'm getting paid too much

Had he run as badly again, he said, he would have finished his indoor season there and then and concentrated on preparing for there is a self-deprecatory instinct

world indoor athletics championships

this summer's outdoor world van Bailey, is something Boldon championships. If I hadn't done openly admires. The Irinidadiwell I'd still be down on the track an accepts now that his highlyworrying about what went wrong. It's a character flaw of mine. But," he added with a grin, "obviously this changes things. Now

I will run in Paris." Boldon is aware of the futility of too much soul-searching something, you sense, that has come to him through much soulsearching. "The Olympic champion and world record holder lost 12 races last year," Boldon said. This is not a business to be in if you second-guess yourself."
The tranquil antitude of the At-

lanta 100m gold medallist, Dono-

public run-in after the 100m imal with Linford Christie, whom Boldon accused of putting him off by his protest over being falsestarted, was counter-productive. "It didn't seem to affect Donovan," Boldon said. "I'm the one who's responsible for myself." Boldon and Christie made

up two days afterwards as they prepared for a round of the 200m. "We made eye contact and he came up to me and said: Nuff respect'. I said the same. It was all that was needed. "I'm still not saying what he

slipping away. I wouldn't do what Limford did.

the youngest. And I have the won his Olympic title. "One fastest one-day double - when I of my heroes is Muhammad

the 100m, emotion is what runs highest, not logic. Linford's was an emotional response so I've never held him culpable for it." Boldon's reception when he returned to his home country profound effect. They responded as if it was two golds,"

he said. "Not having won any-thing in 20 years helps as well." Trinidad's last notable victory by Haseley Crawford in the

1976 Olympic 100m final – has been inspirational to a young man who prides himself on his knowledge of sprinting statistics. "How many men have run

"More than anything else in ran 19.85 and 9.94 in Lausanne last year. That's the kind of stuff that nobody else knows, where

I can draw my confidence from." At such moments, Boldon seems at one with H G Wells' Mr Lewisham, nursing his ambition with his Olympic medals had a as he reflects on the maxim: "Knowledge is Power".

The proposed £1m challenge in May between the Olympic 100 and 200m champions, Bailey and Michael Johnson, has clearly aggravated the double bronze medallist, who plans to break Bailey's 100m world record of 9.84

in April, "just to throw a monkey wrench in the works".

of my heroes is Muhammad n Lausanne Ali," Boldon says. "But I don't know whether he talked to convince the public or himself. Whichever applies to Boldon, if he continues to match words with deeds, he will win a lot more medals. Starting in Paris. Sonia McGeorge has pulled

out of the British team for the world indoor championships. The 32-year-old, due to run in the 3,000 metres, has been forced to withdraw after coming down with illness. She will not be replaced. Sweden's former high jump world record holder, Patrik Sjoberg, has also pulled out after a winter plagued by calf trouble.

Robinson facing lay-off

Wigan's Jason Robinson could be out of action for two months. but is still wanted by South Sydney when his contract expires in June, writes David Hadfield. Robinson is to have a further

examination tomorrow on the ankle he injured in the friendly against Castleford on Sunday. It is feared that there may be ligament damage which could force a long lay-off.

There has been more bad news for Wigan, in that the Australian Rugby League seems to have no intention of cancelling the contract that commits Robinson to leaving England this

with him through an agent and have told him that they want him

to play as a centre in Sydney. The future of Wigan could be decided today with both the chib chairman, Jack Robinson, and the Wigan Athletic chairman, Dave Whelan, who wants to buy Central Park, holding press conferences. Bramley, who give Mick

Shaw, the hooker they have borrowed from their new landlords, Leeds, his debut in the opening game of their Second Division season against York tonight, are also taking two more of Leeds' youngsters on loan. The twins Anthony and David Gibbons are both joining Bramley on a temporary basis, so that they can Souths have been in contact play regular first team rugby.

Henley lure for Redgrave in October they needed a new challenge and the coxless four,

Steve Redgrave seems likely to row at the Henley Royal Regatta this year in an attempt to become the first person to win every major trophy there.

Redgrave has won all the events from single sculls to fours. but the Grand, which is for eights and is the most senior race in the regatta, has eluded him.

Redgrave said in 1995 he would not compete at Henley again as he planned to retire after the Atlanta Olympics but he has rescinded that decision and will pursue another gold medal at the 2000 Sydney ner, Matthew Pinsent, decided le brothers won a bronze.

won by Australia in Atlanta, pro-

vided the right motivation. The four will be selected from next month's trials at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, with the crew preparing for the World Championships in France later this year. One of the practice runs will be Henley and Redgrave is aming at combining two fours in order to make history by winning the final tro-

phy to add to his collection. For Tim Foster, part of the Oxford crew in next month's Boat Race, it could be a chance, to go for Olympic gold again in the event in which he and the Sear-

American football

American football
Victor Muhammad will be living up for the London Monarchs when they open this year's World League against Frankfurt next month. The running back, Muhammad, played in 1991 and 1992 as Victor Ebubediles and then for the 1995 and 1996 seasons as Victor X Ebubediles. "When you are in the Nation of Islam, the X is an Interim stage before you are able to change your name. I have now earned and received my Muhammad" the explained.

Backmainton

The All England Open Championships shart next week with the lowest number of British seeds in history. Nichola Beck and Joanne Davies, the national women's doubles champions, are the only English seeds – placed seventh in the doubles, while Joanne Muggeridge, recently discarded for disciplinary reasons by England, is seeded eighth in the same event in partnership with Wales' Kelly Morgan. The Championships take place on 11-15 March at the National indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Basicsthall
The Barringham coach, Nick Nurse, yesterday picked up the Budweiser League Coach of the Morah award after his sude moved into title contention following eight successivet wins during February. Meanwhile, John White, the Leopards guard, is the Player of the Month as he has proved to be a key contributor in helping his side to maintain their own title aspurations. White ranks second in the league for scoring, averaging 24.89 points per game.
MRA Boston 107 Toronto 103; Chicago 108 Milweuices 90; than 111 Golden State 104; Sacramento 108 New Jersey 95.

STRACHAN WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPI-STRACHAN WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPI-ONSHIPS (Notwich) First rouse: A Goorka (Ani) at F Wiston (Eng) 4-1; S Multani (Ind) at D Akokar (Ind) 4-0.

BOWES
WORDEN'S ALL ENGLAND REDOOR CHAMPRONSHIPS (York's Champion of Champions, that reamt A Harrison (Foliassone) bt
L Gray (Adur, West Sussen) 21-17. Quantesremain: A Harrison (Foliassone) bt P Murphy
(Starley) 21-19. Ruciemen bt Smutt 21-10.
Seeni-dinates S Ricemen (fong George Field)
bt J Wisson (Cumbris) 21-5; L Jamman (Cambridge Chesterton) bt A Harrison (Foliasecons) 21-18. Triples, that connic Charusel
[K Hasses) bt Colchestor (B Bown) 19-7; Canbridge Chesterton (L Jamman) bt Dolphin (J

Green) 24-12: King George Field (J Annan) bt Speiding IG Haney) 22-8; Follestone (A Hartson) bt County Arts (R Norris) 19-18; Temworth (P Burton) bt Worthing (W Deales) 18-17; Edoct, Westestie (A Hubbard) bt Mensfeld; North London (M Van Put) 19-15; Eghem (K Smith bt Copeland; Cumbrie (M Eocles) 28-9; Donyett (J Shecketts) bt Padbrook Paric Devon (P Clash) 22-21. (after extre and).

Neville Brown, the British middleweight champion, is to challenge for the European title against Hacine Cherift, the holder from France, on 26 April. Frank Warren, the promoter, has persuded the Frenchman to give up home adventage and the bout will now be staged at Burton or Derby.

Confusion over purse dates means that Lennox Lewis will not defend his WBC heavyweight title against his fellow Briton Henry Akimwande until June. Originally 9 April was set aside as the purse offer deadline, then it was changed to 17 March. Now Jose Sufairman, the World Boxing Council president, is aiming at 26 March for bids, with the winning promoter being given 90 days to stage the fight.

Cricket

Sussex have signed Mark Robinson, the former Yorkshire and Northampton-shire fast bowler, on a one-year contract. The 30-year-old, released by Yorkshire after six years at the end of last season, has been taken on as cover for the left-arm pacemen leson Lewy, who is out until the middle of June with a stress fracture of the back. India added the uncapped off-spinner Noel David yesterday to the squad four-ing the West Indias, while continuing to hope for the jeturn of the injured Jav-agai Srinath.

Lencashire signed a three-year spon-sorship deal with the power company Norweb at Old Trafford yesterday. Richard Berrow has resigned from the Sussex committee in protest at the de-parture of five key players including Alan Wells, the former captain. His resigna-tion brings the number of members of the committee down to seven.

Football Football

MONDAY'S LAUE RESULTS: FA Carling Premisorbier Coverby 1 Wenderdon 1. FA UNISHO
REGEN'T Third-round replay: Degenham & Redbridge 2 Morecambe 1. (after data time; Dagantism & Redbridge home to Astron turn.) bes
League Pressier Divisions Purified 2. St. Albers
City 2. Unified League Pressier Divisions Enty 4 Quartely 0. Winstantism Kent League
First Divisions Woobsch 1. Sheppey 0. Postins
League Pressier Divisions Backburn 2 Derby

SPORTING DIGEST 1: Sole: 4 Leeds 0. League Cup Group Cour. Burnley 2 Oldnam 1. Avon Insurance Counti-sation First Division: Southernston 1. Arsanal 3. Spendeh Inague: Espanyo 0 Real Mednd 2 (Reul 67, 99), Standings: 1 Real Mednd (P27, Pts62); 2 Barcelona (27-53).

Gordon Sherry, Scotland's former British

Gordon Sherry, Scotland's former British amateur champion, makes his debut on the Challenge Tour in Kerrya next week. Sherry failed to graduate from the Eu-ropean Tour qualifying school in No-vember and is now looking for one of 15 places on next season's circuit giv-en to Challenge Tour players. en to Challenge lour purpers.
John Flanders, executive committee
chalman and honorary treasurer of the
English Golf Union, has been elected
as the Union's first honorary life member. Flanders is president of Chewn Golf
Club, where he has been a member for
over 50 years.

Club, where he has been a martiner for over 50 years. PRINC LEADERBOARD: 1. L. Davies. (Engl 491.53; 2 A Sorenstam (Suel 448.77; 3 K Webb (Just 353.32; 4 L. Neumann (Swel 263.12; 5 D Pepper (US) 278.40; 6 K Rob-birs (US) 263.87; 7 M McGarn (US) 247.46; 8 M Azalion (US) 286.26; 9 J Geddes (US) 185.88; 10 E Nieln (US) 173.79; Other 68: 14 I Johnson 143.25; 15 A Nichrafs 136.39; 21 L. Hackiney 105.98; 28 J Morley 92.53; 42 C Pierce 74.65.

Hockey
MEN'S WORLD CUP QUALIFYING TOURNAUENT (Kinsle Lumptr) Group & Malaysia
4 Poland 5. Group B: Belgum 2 Indand 1:New
Zealand 3 Angertina 1; South Korea 4 Belanus

Znaland 3 Argentina 1; South Korea 4 seems 2.

AEWHA CUP Fifth-round draw (files to be played on Sunday 18 Merchi); Chelmsford V Canterbury; Comson Rambless v Alchdige; Doncaster v Wolding Hightenn v Tropens; lossech v Clore; Sough v Belesm Leiseter; Sultan Cooffeid v Cheant, Warbledon v Cirton. CAMEREDGE UNIVERSITY WOMENS TEAM (Varsity named) v Chord, Wisherforce Rd, Cambaridge, Saturday, Zoon; C Wright, St. Catharine 3; L Elwood Llesus; K Hodder (St. Catharine 3; L Elwood Llesus), K Hoder (St. Catharine 3; L Elwood Llesus), K Hoder (St. Catharine), R Glipla (Clare; capit, S Boys-Seath (St. John's), S Glight (St. John's), R Redgettly (Gress), J Dobte (Engrenuel), N Redgettly (St. Edmands), Substitutes: S Parry-Jones, S Boyd, M Lewis, L Short (St. Catharine's).

ice hockey NHL: NY Rangers 5 San Jose 4 (ot); Toron-to 4 Baston 2; Colorado 5 Vancouver 1.

Motorcycling rent to cover the MCN British Suagreement to cover the Micro British So-perbike Championship until the end of the 1999 season. The action will be shown or Grandstand on Seturdays and

Rugby League

The Super League club Halifax Bluesox have signed a 12-month sponsorship deal with the new West Yorkshire radio station, Classic Gold, which they say is worth more than £25,000. Sports politics

Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League and head of the World Super League, was yesterday re-elected as chairmen of the major spectator sports division of the Central Council for Physical Recreation

SUPER LEAGUE: ICI. Lonherts 2 Dunraven Massing 1; Surbson 2 Ebs Lingfield 1. Standings: Elis Lingfield 10pts; Dunraven

Maesteg 10; Surbson 10; Rowlands Mar-thester 9; KCL bioriherts 9.

Preposterous? Possibly. But if

Henri Leconte, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 1986 and a quarter-finalist in both 1985 and 1987, is to make his first 1985 and 1987, is to make his first eppearance in Scotland in May, Leconte is to compete in the Legards men's doubles tournament at the Cralgockhart Tennis Centre, Edinburgh, from 21-24 May. Other entries for the tournament, which runs alongside the Women's World Doubles Cup, include the former British No 1, Jeremy Bates, and Peter McNamara, the former Wimbledon men's doubles champion.

ARZONA CLASSIC TOURNAMENT (Scotladale) Men's singles, first round: 1 Golmard (Fr) is W Formera (SA) 4-6 8-3 8-2; C Moya (Sp) is M.

Tilistrom (Swe) 3-6 6-2 7-5: B Shelton (US) 18 Mail/Ya Washington (US) 3-6 7-5 6-2: H Gumy (Arg) to M Lurston (Swe) 6-3 5-7 6-4; M Phappouses (Aus) bt 1 Hass (Ger) 2-6 6-3 6-4. R Phappouses (Aus) bt 1 Hass (Ger) 2-6 6-3 6-4. R Phappouses (Aus) bt 1 Hass (Ger) 2-6 6-3; Te Norst (Ger) AMENT (Netherlands) First round: J van Herck (Bob) bt A Boesch (Fr) 6-4 6-2; M Smort (Ger) bt P Hastmas (Meth) 6-3 6-4; D Prindst (Ger) bt P Hastmas (Carlot) 6-2 6-6-3; Te norst (Swe) 18 UMHARA (Carlot) 7-5 6-7 6-2. LEADING ATP TOUR SINGLES RANKONGS: 1 P Sampas (US) 5,684 pts; 2 1 Muster (Aut) 3,709; 3 M Cheng (US) 3,595; 4 Y Narbridon Russia 3,318; 5 6 Rentesent (Drail 3,253; 6 M Ros (Chile) 2,413; 7 R Kragook (Neth) 2,265; 8 T Engest (Swe) 2,22-4; 9 W Ferster (SN) 2,203; 10 C Moya (Sp) 2,171; 6th 13 T Herman 1,753; 3 G G Rusedski 1,069.

LEADING WIA TOUR RANKONGS: 1 S Carl (Ger) 2,571; 8 L Deserport (IS) 3,200; 5 C Marting; (SO) 3,000; 6 M Sees (US) 2,931; 7 A Huber (Ger) 2,571; 8 L Deserport (IS) 2,440; 9 1 Magol (Onn) 2,110; 10 K Habsudose (Sovel) 2,021.

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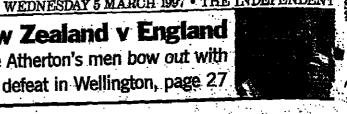
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Manchester United v Porto Glenn Moore previews tonight's European Cup tie, page 26

Sport

New Zealand v England Mike Atherton's men bow out with



Beardsley laid low by freak accident

Football

BY JOHN LICHFIELD AND ALAN NIXON

Newcastle went into last night's Uefa Cup quarter-final first leg against Monaco with Peter Beardsley on the bench after he was concussed in a training accident. With Alan Shearer. Faustino Asprilla and Les Ferdinand definitely out, the news came as a further blow to Newcastle's chances of reaching the semi-finals.

Beardsley was concussed after being struck in the head by a fierce shot from a colleague during training yesterday.

The Newcastle manager. Kenny Dalglish, said: "Peter is struggling. It happened when a player blasted the ball from close range into the side of his

David Ginola may have sealed his fate as a Newcastle player by describing himself as "an orphun" at St James' Park since the departure of Kevin Keegan Speaking to the French newspaper Le Parisien before last night's game, Ginola complained that he had no relaionship with Dalglish

Ginola, who was in the starting line-up, said: "You could talk to Keegan. I have no desire to talk to Kenny Dalglish. I didn't come to Newcastle to play for him. I signed for one man: Keegan. He is gone and now I

am an orpitan."
Ginola made it clear that he would like to return to play in France. He showed little interest in returning to his old club, Paris St-Germain, however.

When you have a passionate affair with a woman and then you leave her, you can never start the same love story all over again," Ginola mused. He hinted strongly that he would prefer to play for Marseilles, his wife's home town club, which is seeking to rebuild after the bribery scandals of the years when Bernard Tupie was in charge. "It is a friendly club, amhitious, exciting... Everything is ready to go back on the boil. Ginola added.

Everton's unpredictable striker, Duncan Ferguson, is a surprise £5m target for Aston Villa. The Villa manager. Bri-

Allan Evans, watched the enigmatic Scot in action at the weekend and have made an approach to Everton about him. Ferguson has had a mixed season at Everton, scoring some spectacular goals but turning in some poor displays, too.

His manager, Joe Royle, could be persuaded to sell, especially at a profit, but the only problem is the timing of the deal with Everton still under the threat of relegation. Royle's transfer targets are Manchester United's Andy Cole and Liverpool's Stan Collymore.

West Ham's 18-year-old central defender. Rio Ferdinand, has signed a five-year contract with the club that ties him to Upton Park until June 2002.

Ferdinand, a cousin of the Newcastle and England striker Les Ferdinand, had two years left on his present deal but was keen to sign an extension despite speculation linking him with other clubs.

The Derby County manager, Jim Smith, is trying to sign two Costa Rican internationals. Smith played the midfielder Mauricio Solis and the striker Paulo Wanchope in a reserve game yesterday and is keen to sign the pair. Both Solis and Wanchope have enough caps to obtain work permits.

Middlesbrough are prepared to receive offers for the former Manchester United goalkeep-er Gary Walsh. The 29-year-old is no longer the first choice at the Riverside Stadium following the £1.25m signing of the Australian international Mark Schwarzer from Bradford City.

Wolves have appointed the former Southampton manager Dave Merrington as their new chief scout. Merrington was sacked by the Saints last summer after serving in various capacities for more than a decade.

Talks aimed at ending Brigh-

ton's power struggle have been put back until next week. Bill Archer and Greg Stanley, the co-owners of Third Division's bottom club, were due to have a fourth meeting with the leader of a proposed takeover consortium. Dick Knight, and mediators from the Centre for Dispute Resolution in London tomorrow. But the talks have been delayed because Knight is an Little, and his assistant, out of the country on holiday.

Australians take South Africans' scalp...



..as Beefy's bonce is laid bare by the barber







The Australians celebrate after Jacques Kallis is bowled by Shane Warne on the final day of the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg yesterday. Australia's victory by an innings and 196 runs might have made lan Botham's hair stand on end had he not had it all shaved off during England's defeat in Wellington yesterday. Botham's hair raised NZ\$100,000 (£43,000) for the Child Cancer Foundation

Reports, page 27; Main photograph, Mike Hewitt/Allsport; Botham photographs, Chris Turvey/Empics

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3238. Wednesday 5 March

- ACROSS 7 Adverse aspect of county team (8)
- Native Australians slow to
- pocket litter? (6) 10 Lower form of goad (5) 11 Present party people (8) 12 Novel of Wodehouse, we
- hear, in America (5.45) 15 A means of spreading (ar (6)
- 16 A second Lincoln reversal — it has only one cell (b) 18 Light from the cast (7.7) 20 When royal egg is cooked, it
- drains off water (8) 2 Shots of colossal volume (5) 24 Salesman with distinctive
- manner to make good (6) 25 Fresh in water off Cowes (8)
- Cascades from rift in high hills (8) Recognize key leader at this time? (4)
- 3 Models change position? Hardly ever! (n) 4 Fell lamily presented to soci-
- cty (4)
 5 This antelope is an affable-sounding creature (10)
 6 Desert colour (b)
- Uncomfortable and queses while resting (3-2-4)
- 13 Lad meaning to become a star actor (7-3)
- 14 Pair of drawers with only one
- swinging leg? (9) 17 Atmosphere endured while flying (\$) 18 Tea licence required in Swiss Collage, we hear (b)
- 19 Something that covers scanner in orbit? (6) 21 Dismiss side in Roses match
- 23 Composer found in concerthall, alone (4)

Widdlished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, J Canada Square, Canary Whort, London E14 SDL, and printed at Micros Colour Form St.

Injured Benazzi could miss French finale

Rugby Union

France are facing the prospect of having to play their decisive Five Nations' Championship match against Scotland without their captain. Abdelatif Benazzi, and may be forced to a

reorganise their back row. The French captain, who sustained a rib injury last Saturday while helping his side to secure their first victory over England at Twickenham for a decade, has been unable to train with his club, Agen, this week and he now faces a struggle to be fit in time to face the Scots at the Parc des Princes on

As France prepare for their attempt to complete their first Grand Slam in 10 years, they also have fears for the fitness of their No 8, Fabien Pelous, He is nursing an injured right hip and is also doubtful. If neither he nor Benazzi recovers, only Olivier Magne of the trio who provided the power behind the pack at Twickenhum would line

By contrast, the Scots were able yesterday to name the same players who steamfollered Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday. It is the first time since their campaign by surrendering last season's campaign that the to Ireland in Cardiff after taking Scots have kept the same side for successive games, and their team manager. Arthur Hastie. described yesterday's selection meeting as "basically a rubber stamp job".

Their coach, Richie Dixon, though pointed out that Scotland have done their best to achieve a degree of consistency in selection this season. "The team has been fairly stable apart from the midfield, he said. We took the view that we

should keep the same forwards that played against England for the Irish match. Against Ireland. the midfield blend was what we hoped for. The players should now have gained confidence."

They will need plenty of that. "France are a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde team. They changed their pattern of play when they went 20-6 down against England. Then they played in a similar style to our game," Dixon said. France are dangerous when they flow and go. There is no team like them when they are playing with confidence. But we have a core of players who played against France in the last two Five Nations matches and in the World Cup game in

The scenario England will be looking for is a crushing victory over Wales in Cardiff, while the Scots cause an upset in Paris. The first part of that combination, which could bring England the title on points difference, would seem, on the face of it. to look more likely than it was when the Weish put up a vastly improved performance in

The Wales coach, Kevin Bowring, whose side won at Murrayfield but undermined an early lead, will wait "until the very last moment" to decide on his team to face England. His is contending with an injury list that meant he began the build-up for the England game without 10 of the side who finished the last game against France.

The Richmond duo of Allan Bateman and Scott Quinnell missed the session because of a clash with club duties, but the rest of the absentees - David Young, Christian Loader, Mark

Rowley, Craig Quinnell, Robert Howley, Arwel Thomas, Scott Gibbs and Ieuan Evans - were due to injury. In addition to the walking wounded, the squad props. Andrew Lewis (broken ribs) and Lydon Mustoe (knee

operation), also add to Bowring's injury problems. "I'm a little bit worried about Arwel's knee and we don't really know about Dai Young's ankle at the moment."Bowring said, "I think we will announce a squad of 23 on Thursday and then give the injured players as long as possible to recover for the game be-

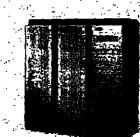
fore finalising the side. 'I wouldn't mind waiting until 3pm on the day of the game hefore deciding, as long as I'm able to work with other squad members in the meantime."

Paul Arnold, the Swanser lock, and Alan Phillips, the Ebbw Vale prop. have been drafted into the squad and Arnold could be in line for a recall to combat the English lineout threat.

('s FPI, D Hodge (Wats g (Newcastle), D Cros

Swansea have postponed their Swalec Cup quarter-final against Neath at The Gnoll for a week as Scott Gibbs and Colin Charvis will be away with the Wales squad competing in the Hong Kong Sevens. Welsh Rugby Union rules allow clubs with two or more players absent on international duty to postpone League or Cup matches, which could lead to two more of the quarter-finals on 22 March being disrupted.

Deposit Box



Prevention is better than cure, as they say. Although what the cure is for lost data, we're not sure

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